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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 16 May

NC2405101295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 16 May edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Al-Azhar Imam Welcomes Convention of Arab Summit on Jerusalem

2. Al-Azhar Vice President Discusses Female Students' Attire
3. Editorial Calls On Muslims To Wake Up, Unite Against Enemies
4. Columnist Says Islamic Public Opinion Can Influence Decisions
5. Writer Asks Believers in U.S. Neutrality To Review Their Positions
6. Participant in Dialogue With Repentant Extremists Interviewed
7. Columnist Laments Arab Inaction Over Plan To Move U.S. Embassy
8. Columnist Not Surprised by Israeli, U.S. Positions on Jerusalem

AL-AZHAR IMAM WELCOMES CONVENTION OF ARAB SUMMIT ON JERUSALEM

Page 1 publishes an 80-word report that al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad al-Haqq welcomes the convention of an Arab summit "to preserve Arab rights in Jerusalem since it is the core of the Palestinian issue and the focus of peace efforts in the region." The report says the statements were made in an exclusive interview with 'AQIDATI, the text of which is to be published in the following week's issue.

AL-AZHAR VICE PRESIDENT DISCUSSES FEMALE STUDENTS' ATTIRE

Page 2 publishes an interview of approximately 800-words with the vice president of al-Azhar University on the successful experiment of educating women at the university. He discusses various issues, such as the success of female graduates in all fields, improvement the level of education, and the dress code for both teachers and students. He notes that "there is no such thing as Islamic uniform, but there is modest attire—something that staff members from outside al-Azhar need to abide by." On the dress code for the female students, he says: "There are strict instructions to prevent any female student without a headscarf or who is not wearing modest attire from entering the campus." She is then referred to a disciplinary council.

EDITORIAL CALLS ON MUSLIMS TO WAKE UP, UNITE AGAINST ENEMIES

Page 3 publishes a 600-word editorial that begins by discussing the pilgrims who have just returned from Mecca, pure and cleansed of all their sins. Islam calls on Muslims to unite, and at this time, the Muslims are in dire need of unity, the editorial maintains. The editorial says Muslims have been slumbering for such a long time that they have now become weak and backward. The editorial asks: "When will Muslims wake from their slumber and find their way to salvation? It has become clear to them that the so-called new world order wants to annihilate them and deprive them of their basic rights." The editorial gives the example of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The editorial warns that if Muslims do not wake up today, they should not expect the sun to shine tomorrow.

COLUMNIST SAYS ISLAMIC PUBLIC OPINION CAN INFLUENCE DECISIONS

Basyuni al-Halawani writes his 600-word "In All Frankness" column, entitled "The French Stance and the Lesson to Muslims," which comments on the French Government's decision to cancel an earlier decision by the Interior Ministry banning the book "The Lawful and Prohibited in Islam." The column maintains that international Islamic public opinion has an influence on many decisions and positions that are aggressive to Islam. Al-Halawani notes that Islamic organizations in the West had great influence in forcing the French authorities to cancel the decision. The writer explains that this decision is a positive indication and provides new hope for improving the conditions of the Muslims in France. Al-Halawani concludes that this should be a new lesson to Muslims everywhere that they can influence things, after desperation has gripped them.

WRITER ASKS BELIEVERS IN U.S. NEUTRALITY TO REVIEW THEIR POSITIONS

Another 600-word column on page 8 entitled "Our Lord Is Gracious" by Majdi Salim, discusses what the Arabs are going to do now that the United States has put the final two touches on the picture. The first touch was when it aborted the Egyptian request to make Israel join the NPT, and the second was when it announced that it would use the veto against the UN resolution on Israeli land expropriation in East Jerusalem. Salim says that though the United States put on the final touches, Israel is actually the one behind these policies. He asks those who still believe that the United States is a neutral partner in the peace process to review their positions. Salim wonders what we will be doing about this now that the picture has become crystal clear.

PARTICIPANT IN DIALOGUES WITH REPENTANT EXTREMISTS INTERVIEWED

Page 14 publishes a 2500-word interview with Dr. Nash'at 'Abd-al-Jawad Dayf, one of the al-Azhar professors who took part in the dialogues with some sentenced fundamentalists who repented after these dialogues. He begins his interview by distinguishing between those Islamic groups that have been misguided, such as al-Jihad and al-Shawqiyun, and the moderate Islamic groups that believe in the true principles of Islam. He cautions against categorizing all as Islamic groups. On the reasons he has deduced as to why youths join such groups, Dayf says: "Heading the list is unemployment and the poverty these youths suffer from; ignorance of religion; ignorance in the Islamic shari'ah colleges; and blind imitation of evil people" among other things, such as the absence of the family. Dayf notes that it is lawful to fight these groups, as the early Muslims did against the kharijites [a sect that opposed Caliph 'Ali during the early days of Islam]. Violence can be met with violence when other methods fail, he maintains. He advises all government departments to perform their duty to confront this phenomenon in the country. The economy must be improved and reasons for unemployment must be eliminated. Ulemas and intellectuals must also confront this kind of thinking and must be given the chance to meet with the fundamentalists. Corruption must also be dealt with severely in the country. On what the repentant youths think, he says they claim they want to apply Islamic shari'ah and justice. Their actions are a reaction, not a cure to the situation. On what repenting actually means to these youths, Dayf clarifies that they promise not to harm others or society, but they actually retain their ideas and beliefs. They renounce violence and claim they will search for legal methods to spread their ideas. Dayf concludes: "We try to make the youth go back to his internal conscience and real belief."

COLUMNIST LAMENTS ARAB INACTION OVER PLAN TO MOVE U.S. EMBASSY

On page 20, 'Adil Dayf writes a column on the Israeli plan to Judaize Jerusalem, which he notes is proceeding as planned with U.S. and international backing and in the absence of any Arab action. He wonders: "What are we doing now? Are the statements of condemnation and renunciation enough? Will they liberate Jerusalem?" He says: "It is sad that the Arabs stand with arms folded while the U.S. Congress plans to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. Dayf concludes that what is needed now is to quickly rally all Arab and Islamic potential to stop the U.S. Embassy from moving to Jerusalem and all measures to expropriate Arab land. Otherwise, we will lose Jerusalem and Palestine as we lost Granada and Andalusia previously.

COLUMNIST NOT SURPRISED BY ISRAELI, U.S. POSITIONS ON JERUSALEM

On page 24, al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf publishes his 700-word "A Call to Reason" column in which he notes that Israel's recent decision to expropriate more land in Jerusalem does not come as a surprise at all because it is in line with its policies of turning Jerusalem into the capital of Israel. Although this decision is a violation of all laws, treaties, and international charters, as well as the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf asks: "When has Israel ever adhered to any laws, treaties, or international charters?" The U.S. position should also not be very surprising to us because the United States has always supported Israel. "When has the United States ever stopped supporting Israel economically, politically, diplomatically, militarily, scientifically, technologically, or through manpower," 'Abd-al-Ra'uf wonders. He notes the importance of preparing for the emergency Arab minisummit on Jerusalem "which we hope will issue resolutions that will save Jerusalem and preserve the peace process, if there is any hope left to preserve it."

Political Islam Review; AL-SHA'B 19 May

NC2305164095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 19 May edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Rally in Solidarity With Jerusalem Announced

2. Writer Demands 'Umar 'Abd-Al-Rahman's Release
3. U.S. Veto Said Shows Disregard for Arabs
4. Court Orders Release of Muslim Brothers
5. Muslim Brotherhood Statement on Jerusalem, Kashmir
6. Seminar on Modernizing Islamic Thought Viewed
7. Lawyers Celebrate Uprising Anniversary

RALLY IN SOLIDARITY WITH JERUSALEM ANNOUNCED

An approximately 1,500-word editorial on page 1 highlights the Labor Party's call on 15 May for a rally to be held following the 19 May Friday prayers at al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo in solidarity with Jerusalem, in the wake of Israel's decision to seize Palestinian land in

Jerusalem. Explaining that the matter is "grave" and that the "Zionist enemy" is doing all it can to wipe out the Arab and Islamic features of this holy city and al-Aqsa Mosque, the paper notes that any more delay and there will not be any Jerusalem to negotiate about. Noting that Egypt has always been the defender of Jerusalem and Palestine, the paper points out that a "massive" turnout is needed at the conference to send a clear message to Israel and to the U.S. Administration, which "protects and sponsors all its aggressive and expansionist designs." The paper adds: "If Clinton fears the Jews out of a desire to get reelected, we fear God because we have a desire to renew our submission to Him only." Pointing out that this is not a call to take up arms or to engage in a jihad to liberate Jerusalem, the paper notes, however, that a jihad requires uniting, a pledge, and a search for ways of confrontation, adding that voicing popular protests is more dangerous than people may think. Elaborating, the paper adds: "If the United States feels that there is an influential popular movement inside Egypt, it will reexamine its calculations and put noticeable pressure on Israel." The paper adds: "It is true that the liberation of Jerusalem will not be accomplished at the end of today's rally, but we can make it the starting point of an escalation that will not stop until Zionism backs down on the Judaization conspiracy." Concluding, the paper urges Muslim and Christian men and women as well as representatives from all organizations and parties, including the ruling party, to come to al-Azhar Mosque to urge the "need to halt all types of normalization with the Zionist enemy," to vow to restore self-confidence and tell the world that we are not a nation of dead people, to vow to "expel all Israeli tourists," and to boycott all their "poisonous goods."

Pages 2 and 3 of AL-SHA'B are entirely devoted to articles and reactions by Egyptian political and public figures as well as other figures critical of Israel's seizure of Arab land in Jerusalem, U.S. support for the Israeli measures, and attempts to Judaize Jerusalem.

WRITER DEMANDS 'ABD-AL-RAHMAN'S RELEASE

Labor Party official Mahfuz 'Azzam writes an approximately 800-word "Open Letter to President Clinton" on page 5. He notes that following the Oklahoma bombing on 19 April, President Clinton gave immediate instructions to the Department of Defense to select targets in Iran and Sudan to strike at. He points out that immediately after the incident the U.S. media gave the impression that "Middle Eastern" or "Islamic fundamentalists" could be involved in the attack. An Israeli expert and another expert from the Central Intelligence Agency, hosted by the BBC, have explained the similarities between the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York and the federal building in Oklahoma. As a result, the writer adds, millions of American Muslims or Americans of Arab origin lived in fear for fifty hours, until a suspect was arrested and turned out to be neither Arab nor Muslim. 'Azzam adds that since the Oklahoma bombing was committed by non-Arab Americans and, according to the Central Intelligence Agency's expert, there are similarities between that incident and the New York World Trade Center bombing, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and the other defendants in that case must be released, particularly since they have pleaded not guilty and the prosecutors have failed to find incriminating evidence against them. 'Azzam adds that it is inconceivable for 'Abd-al-Rahman to commit a crime against the country that had given him shelter, residence, and even a mosque to preach in. He adds that this is not an attempt to defend 'Abd-al-Rahman, but to defend Muslims and Arabs in the United States against false and unjust accusations made against them just because they are Muslims or of Arab origin.

U.S. VETO SHOWS DISREGARD FOR ARABS

An unattributed 150-word report on page one notes that the "U.S. Government, in disregard of the Arab and Islamic nation, has used the right of veto to block a Security Council draft resolution denouncing Israel and calling on it to rescind its decision to expropriate Arab land in Jerusalem." The report also highlights the Jordanian House of Representatives' "historic decision" to freeze the peace treaty with Israel, to recall the Jordanian ambassador from Israel, and halt normalization with it in protest of Israel's decision to Judaize Jerusalem.

COURT ORDERS RELEASE OF MUSLIM BROTHERS

An approximately 400-word unattributed report on page 6 notes the Higher State Security Court's decision to release 28 detainees accused of being members of the Muslim Brotherhood.

In a related issue, the Egyptian Human Rights Organization has called for the swift release of detainees and prisoners of conscience and an end to random arrests and violations of human rights, according to an approximately 100-word unattributed report on the same page. A statement by the organization notes that State Security Intelligence officers have surrounded the homes of several individuals belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood and brandished machine guns and clubs in the faces of women and children. They arrested nine people for belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood and took them to al-Hadrah Prison in Alexandria. The authorities have denied them any visitation rights or contacts with their relatives, the report adds.

On the same page, an approximately 90-word unattributed report notes that Midhat al-Haddad, treasurer of the Engineers Association who is running for the Consultative Council elections in Alexandria, has been detained once again by the Interior Ministry after having been released by the State Security Prosecution in Alexandria on 500 pounds bail. He was arrested in front of a mosque in al-Manshiyah district following a successive campaigning tour on 15 May and accused of taking part in an election march.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD STATEMENT ON JERUSALEM, KASHMIR

An approximately 380-word report on page 6 highlights a Muslim Brotherhood statement denouncing Israel's confiscation of land in Jerusalem.

SEMINAR ON MODERNIZING ISLAMIC THOUGHT VIEWED

A recent seminar organized by the Cairo Center for Human Rights Studies on modernizing Islamic thought and Islam's views on contemporary political theories is highlighted in an approximately 1,200-word report on page 9. Beginning the seminar, Dr. Nabil 'Abd-al-Fattah, a researcher at AL-AHRAM's Center for Political and Strategic Studies, spoke of some "fallacies" preventing an objective debate on modernizing Islamic political thought. The first is the claim that the Islamic movement is unified that the differences among the Islamists, whether in Egypt, Algeria, or elsewhere, are marginal. Another illusion is the claim by some Islamists that they alone represent Islam, which ultimately leads to a theocracy. He notes that while some Islamic groups show particular interest in human rights by highlighting the state's violations of the rights of its members, these same groups engage in violations against those who disagree with them.

Defending the Islamists, Islamic writer Dr. Tawfiq al-Shawi points out that Islamists are not against modernization, but they give priority to "liberation," adding that the goal of the Islamists is to liberate the Islamic peoples and land. He added: "We are not against democracy as a means for alternation of power. But as for ruling, it must be done according to the Koran and the sunna [Prophet's tradition]. He added: "Those engaged in mutual violence with the authorities believe that they are fighting a tool of a foreign power that seeks to subject their country to cultural subservience, to serve the interests of foreign powers, and make them politically and culturally subservient to the West." Therefore, he asks: "Why don't we let the people choose their own representatives through free elections and then hold a dialogue with them?" Dr. al-Shawi emphasized that the Islamists are demanding the same guarantees demanded by the other political factions; most importantly, the people's right to bring down and change the ruler who fails to serve and safeguard the nation's interests.

For his part, Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi agreed on the need for modernizing the secondary, and not the fundamental, principles of Islamic thought. He noted that Islam does not believe in the "holiness" of the opinion of individuals and believes in "intellectual multiplicity," adding that nobody has the right to speak on behalf of God. Concluding, al-Hudaybi said: "There is no theocracy under Islam by which a ruler is granted a holiness and perfection from error, because making mistakes is in the nature of humans. We want a civic government which could be brought down by the people one day after it is elected. We could borrow from the international laws what does not conflict with our creed and our shari'ah."

LAWYERS CELEBRATE UPRISING ANNIVERSARY

An unattributed 150-word report on page 6 notes that the Lawyers Association celebrated Lawyers Day on 17 May, which coincides with the first anniversary of the lawyers' "uprising" in protest of the martyrdom of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani "under torture." The report notes that despite the security "siege" and measures to abort the meeting, lawyers managed to fill the auditorium at the association building. The conference denounced the detention of 50 lawyers, who are subjected to maltreatment and even torture, and demanded that the results of the investigations into the death of Madani be announced.

Palestinian Affairs

PA Official Stresses Importance of 1 Jul Deadline

TA3105170595 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 29 May 95 pp 1, 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A prominent Palestinian official has warned against the possibility that the entire peace process might collapse if Israel does not honor the peace dues before 1 July. He accused elements in the Israeli security service and army of smuggling identity cards, weapons, and explosives to some Palestinian groups in order to undermine the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. He expressed satisfaction with the dialogue with opposition forces and noted that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is preparing to issue a law for parties. The official, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the PA presidency, was speaking to AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH on topical issues.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said "that 1 July is a decisive turning point. Either the peace process collapses, or Israel adheres to the DOP and takes fundamental steps toward holding the elections, translating the land for peace principle, and redeploying in the West Bank. In both cases, there should be a reassessment of the situation. So far, the Israelis have not presented any serious ideas. They are proposing to withdraw only from cities, not from areas. This is a distortion of the redeployment concept and turns our cities into cantons and Bantustans in a sea of Israeli security. Then, movement between West Bank towns will be with permits." [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Interviewed on Damascus Talks, Peace

NC3105193095 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 25 May 95 p 14

[Interview with PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi by Ghassan Wahhab and Zaynab 'Asi in Beirut; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-DIYAR] What did you carry with you to Damascus and how far has the dialogue with the opposition groups gone?

[Qaddumi] In fact, we are in constant touch and continuing dialogue with the brothers in the Palestinian revolution groups, particularly at this delicate stage of the Palestinian history and after the Oslo agreement. We have expressed our reservations about this agreement and defined our reservations clearly. Certainly our visit to Damascus was for the purpose of consultation on the Arab summit. I met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' after the Israeli decision to confiscate Palestinian land in Jerusalem and the U.S. veto of the amended draft resolution which the European countries submitted and agreed upon. We discussed these issues and the need to enhance Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. We wished an Arab summit would convene to remove Arab differences and clear the Arab air to bring about accord among the Arab countries.

In the meantime, I held a dialogue with the [Palestinian] groups. I will go back to Damascus for protracted meetings with the brothers to examine the prospects of the future and the plans that we can work out to safeguard the Palestinian rights now that it has been definitely proved that Israel does not comply with its commitments or pledges. As a matter of fact, Israel is trying to impose what it wants on the Arab region and on the Palestinian track after it succeed in isolating it. The Israeli practices are proof of its plans. It is confiscating land, building more settlements, and closing the crossing points and, at the same time, it is increasing its pressure on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. It has revoked all decisions on Jerusalem and reneged on all its pledges. Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, who craves building settlements and absolutely does not desire peace, is trying to impose a permanent Israeli occupation. This runs counter to all the principles on which a peaceful settlement was based and the Madrid Conference was convened.

[AL-DIYAR] 'Arafat recently cast doubt on the survival of the Oslo agreement and assailed it. How serious is 'Arafat's stance?

[Qaddumi] This is natural, and we warned about this repeatedly before the Oslo agreement was signed. In fact, we said that Israel has no credibility and that the economic, political, and military intentions of Israel show definitely that Israel does not want peace now. Israel did not respond to the peace calls out of a desire for peace, but under pressure and to delude the world's public into believing that it wants peace. A proof of this is that after the Oslo Agreement it postponed withdrawal from 16 September to April. Rabin mocked the dates, saying they were not sacred. This is clear proof that Israel does not desire peace and is not prepared for it. This is also clear in its measures against the Palestinian people and in its social, military, and political structure which betrays its belligerent orientations. The Israeli mind is still a military mind and the Peace Now Movement in this society is still weak.

[AL-DIYAR] It is said about you that during your past meetings with the Palestinian opposition factions, you made many promises and pledges, but that you went back on them. What do you say about this comment?

[Qaddumi] I do not believe that Abu-al-Lutf [Qaddumi] says something and does not abide by it. At the same time, when he says something, he implements it and his credibility is well-known to all. I do not believe that this rumor is honest.

[AL-DIYAR] What is Palestinian Foreign Minister Abu-al-Lutf's position today on 'Arafat?

[Qaddumi] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is the chairman of the PLO and the president of the State of Palestine. He is also the head of the Palestinian Authority. There are differences of opinion between us, but these are arguments for the sake of Palestine. Perhaps I did not know about the Oslo Agreement, and this is one of the shortcomings of the Oslo Agreement. As an institution, we are trying to protect the PLO and activate its institutions. Our basic mission is to preserve this organization and resolve the refugees' problem because at the core of the Palestinian issue are the issues of the refugees and Jerusalem. We have our differences of opinion, and I call Oslo an adventure led by brother Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] and other brothers whom I oppose.

[AL-DIYAR] How do you view the issue of the Palestinians in the diaspora?

[Qaddumi] This is the basic issue I am concerned with. My presence abroad, my refusal to enter [the Gaza Strip], and my steadfastness fall within this framework. When Christopher asked me why I do not negotiate with Peres, I told him that if Peres publicly announces the right of the refugees to return to their homeland, then I want to return to Jaffa.

[AL-DIYAR] Are there any meetings taking place with Lebanese officials?

[Qaddumi] There is a meeting with brother Faris Buwayz this evening.

[AL-DIYAR] What will you discuss in this meeting?

[Qaddumi] I have many things to discuss. We continuously meet with our brothers in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt, particularly the cordon countries, and discuss many issues because this is very important. We discuss the topic of peace in the region because the issue of Palestine is a pan-Arab issue. It is the major ring in the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Whoever believes that he can proceed alone without the Arabs deludes himself. I have said this many times.

[AL-DIYAR] Where does Fatah stand now?

[Qaddumi] The Fatah Movement remains the same and is growing. It has undertaken the task of a settlement in accordance with the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolution. The strike staged at Fatah's request in the West Bank a few days ago is proof of Fatah's rejection of these measures and its demand for stopping the political negotiations that have become devoid of any political substance and which will damage the Palestinian cause and the Arab stand if they are continued.

[AL-DIYAR] You are a Fatah member and have voiced national stands on several occasions. Do you have any red lines when it comes to your relations with Abu-'Ammar? Will 'Arafat's bypassing of Palestinian constants prompt you to declare a different stand from 'Arafat's (I mean severing relations with him)?

[Qaddumi] The PNC was the one that approved the political constants and everyone is accountable to the PNC. We are bound by the PNC's decisions.

[AL-DIYAR] What will be your position if the PNC meets and approves the Oslo Agreement as a result of the way the PNC is structured?

[Qaddumi] I do not envisage the PNC approving the Oslo Agreement at all. I have said repeatedly that if the PNC meets it will then repeal the Oslo Agreement.

[AL-DIYAR] But you have repeatedly voiced your fear of a PNC meeting.

[Qaddumi] I am known for a famous saying which I took from an old saying, that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. Therefore, I have not expressed any fears about a PNC meeting as a Palestinian institution.

[AL-DIYAR] Do you still support the armed struggle?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian people have the right to fight as long as there is one Israeli in the Palestinian territories. I have said this a thousand times.

[AL-DIYAR] What is your position on the arrests among the ranks of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and al-Jihad in Gaza?

[Qaddumi] We are in constant touch with our brothers inside the occupied territories and with all the groups so as to prevent inter- Palestinian fighting or a domestic conflict. We helped last Friday and one month ago to stop the situation from deteriorating and stopped the massacre that almost spread as a result of the sedition caused by the Israelis.

Orient House Calls For Talks on Jerusalem

TA3105160195 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 May 95 pp 8, 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem, WAFA — A statement issued yesterday by Orient House accused Israel of placing obstacles before the advancement of the peace process by pursuing the policy of expropriating Palestinian lands in Arab Jerusalem and building settlements on them with the aim of Judaizing the holy city, eradicating its Arab and Islamic features, and displacing its inhabitants in flagrant defiance of Arab, Islamic, and international public opinion.

The statement added "that Israel's celebration of what it calls 'the anniversary of the unification of the two sectors of Jerusalem' adds a new obstacle to the peace process and reaffirms Israel's nonsubmission to international legitimacy."

Orient House proclaimed its rejection of all Israeli measures in Arab Jerusalem and refuted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's claims that consecutive Israeli governments had respected the city's sanctity as far as other peoples and religions were concerned. The statement described these remarks as a new Israeli attempt to deceive world public opinion and conceal the facts on the ground.

The statement stressed that Arab Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state and that it cannot be renounced or conceded. Orient House considered recent Israeli confiscation decisions as null and void, illegal, and unacceptable. Those decisions contravene the spirit and content of the agreements signed between the PLO and Israel. Moreover, they are in total contravention of international resolutions, especially Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which consider Arab Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories and say that no changes can be introduced in it.

The statement called for canceling all land expropriation decisions, halting all settlement activity or construction over confiscated Palestinian lands, and desisting from any future measures.

Moreover, Orient House called for the holding of immediate talks over Jerusalem and lifting the political and economic blockade imposed on it.

Differences Within Islamic Jihad Said Causing Split

MM3105141295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by 'Ali Nun: "Split in Islamic Jihad between the 'Awdah and al-Shaqaqi Trends"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut — Informed fundamentalist sources in Beirut and other sources close to the "Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine" said yesterday that fierce differences erupted in recent months and surfaced a few weeks ago between the trend of Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah, the movement's general guide and founder, and the trend of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the movement's secretary general, and that these differences are developing into a split within the movement.

Shaykh 'Awdah's sources accuse Dr. al-Shaqaqi of committing "very major and very serious political and organizational mistakes and excesses hitherto regarded as forbidden things." That, they said, led to the resignation of over half of the elected members of the movement's Shura Council living outside Gaza and the occupied territory (some in Beirut and Damascus) and all the Shura Council members at home, and "therefore the movement no longer has a leadership, and the occupation of the post of secretary general by al-Shaqaqi became illegitimate."

The sources said that those who resigned from the movement's Shura Council include second founder Hajj Taysir al-Khatib and Dr. Bashir Musa.

The charges made by Shaykh 'Awdah's sources against al-Shaqaqi include "his holding secret contacts with (Palestinian President Yasir) 'Arafat and concluding a secret deal under which Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, held by the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in Gaza after the Bet Lid operation, was released and under which all the elements loyal to al-Shaqaqi were to be released, in return for which he would hand over some of the movement's arms to the PNA, and indeed some of these arms have been handed over, and none of his supporters would attack the PNA or the Oslo agreement and there would be no instigation of military action against the Israelis from Gaza, and no military operations at all to be launched from Gaza."

The same sources say that "al-Shaqaqi made these undertakings despite the fact that he had nothing to do with the movement's military wing known as Qasam."

They added that al-Shaqaqi "was able, as a result of that deal, to bring into Gaza his supporters who lived in Libya, Algeria, and other places."

Listing some of al-Shaqaqi's organizational mistakes, Shaykh 'Awdah's sources said that the most serious mistake was his squandering of the movement's funds.

They said that al-Shaqaqi "stopped the allocations for all those opposed to him in the movement and confiscated their organizational, financial, and political rights."

Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah's sources accused Dr. al-Shaqaqi of "complicity in serious crimes and practices against those opposed to him in the movement, especially the abduction, with the help of the Fatah-Uprising Movement led by Colonel Abu-Musa, of some of these oppositionists and their torture and imprisonment in Lebanon." They said that "al-Shaqaqi does not hesitate to establish political links with any Arab or non-Arab party with no restrictions if its serves his personal interests." They accused him of going so far as "to provide information about Islamic opposition elements in a certain Arab state to the authorities of that state."

'Awdah's sources said that "a general congress of the movement will be held soon at which al-Shaqaqi will be dismissed from his post or he will insist on keeping that post, which would split the movement even though Shaykh 'Awdah insists on preserving the movement's unity at any price."

They added that "the issue is now a general one, not just an internal organizational one, and that al-Shaqaqi's continuation in his position would certainly threaten the continuity of the movement and its plan."

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Differences' Pose Problems for Transfer of Powers

JN3005140395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 May 95

[Report by Hanadi al-Imam in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian and Israeli delegations are still meeting to discuss the transfer of the powers of eight ministries in the West Bank to the National Authority [NA]. The two sides formed two separate permanent committees to discuss telecommunications and labor issues and to continue negotiations until 1 July, a deadline set by Shim'on Peres for the redeployment of the Israeli Army on the West Bank.

Jamil al-Tarifi, Palestinian minister of civilian affairs, has told us that there are general differences over the concept of the political process. He urged the Israeli side to abide by the political process in practice rather than in theory.

We have learned from the Palestinian side that the Israelis want to transfer the administrative, rather than the technical and financial duties, of the Labor Ministry. This means that these duties will be divided. Moreover, the Israeli side tried to discuss issues outside the committee's specialty such as settlements and settlers.

The Palestinian and the Israeli delegations had tackled the various outstanding issues between the NA and the Israeli Government such as the crossings, the transportation of goods, the proposed increase in the number of workers, and the closure of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

It is noteworthy that the Rafah crossing was opened yesterday to the movement of goods from Egypt to the Gaza Strip and that trucks transported approximately 180 tonnes of rice to Gaza Strip.

Delegations Fail To Reach Agreement

NC3105164195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 May (MENA)—The second round of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the transfer of authority in the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority [PA] ended here this afternoon without reaching an agreement on the transfer of authority in the labor and communications fields on which this round focused.

A Palestinian spokesman had earlier said that there was a possibility that the whole negotiations would collapse as a result of Israeli intransigence. He added: We stopped at one specific point and gave the Israelis in one clause what ensures their security rights in the sphere of communications in return for our national, financial, and commercial rights.

But Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Palestinian delegation, tried to soften this sharp statement and said that this did not mean stopping the negotiations. He added that the Israeli side has not abided with what was agreed on by the two sides.

Aaron Shahor, head of the Israeli delegation, admitted that there is a basic problem in the negotiations concerning communications, part of which is caused by the financial factor and the means of transferring the collected funds to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], but he refused to say whether the negotiations have reached an impasse.

The heads of the two delegations were scheduled to hold a joint news conference but the differences between them made each one hold a separate conference.

The head of the Palestinian delegation said that there are three issues concerning the transfer of authority in the communications field: clarification and confirmation of the communications aspect of the Cairo agreement; the relationship between the Israeli (Bezel) telephone company and the PNA; and the implementation of the Cairo agreement with regard to radio and television. He added: We have not reached an agreement after having concluded around 95 per cent of the agreement's clauses. But the interference of many persons in the Israeli delegation has prevented an agreement.

Al-Tarifi went on to say: That was the second round of negotiations on transferring authority to the PA. The first round was held in Tel Aviv two weeks ago. He noted that agreement was reached in general on the authorities that would be transferred to the PA. He added that the Palestinian side explained its stand on the elections committees and the redeployment negotiations, noting that what is being done is the implementation of the Oslo Agreement which started with Gaza and Jericho.

He also noted that there are differences of views between members of the Israeli delegation, particularly over the issue of transferring authority in the labor field, and that the head of the Israeli delegation to this committee began to miss the meetings and send some legal advisers who overturned all that had been formerly agreed on.

He added that he asked the Israeli delegation members to present their views very frankly on the security aspects in the communications field but they resorted to excuses such as the existence of commercial issues. He said that they want to impose on the Palestinians what they want.

Al-Tarifi gave several examples of the Israeli practices, such as the equipment and machinery given free by a German company to the Palestinian radio station. He said that when the equipment arrived at the Tel Aviv airport, the director general of the Israeli Communications Ministry did not issue the license to let it in. He said that the Israeli authorities continue to refuse to give the PA the frequencies for the operation of the communications system concluded with a French company for six million francs, which France is financing. He noted that there are basic differences between the two sides in the labor field, where the Israelis are talking about empowerment in some authorities while we are talking about the transfer of authorities to the PA. He added that agreement was reached to let the heads of the technical committees meet next Monday in an attempt to close the gap between the two stands. Agreement was also reached to hold the next round of negotiations on the transfer of authority in Cairo next Wednesday [7 June].

Al-Tarifi stressed that the transfer of authority will put Israel and its credibility to the main test and will introduce other calculations to the political process. He also stressed that there will be no stability in the region if a Palestinian-Israeli agreement is not reached, without which there will be no peace in the region, as President Husni Mubarak has asserted in his statements.

On his part, the head of the Israeli delegation said that negotiations held since Monday were frank and constructive and that a positive atmosphere prevailed.

He admitted that there is a basic problem in the communications field and that the two sides agreed to form a subcommittee that will discuss the disputed issues in the field of communications and telecommunications, the complicated issue on the agenda. He added that the two sides are seriously working to reach an agreement on the transfer of authority by 1 July.

It is recalled that the negotiations involve the transfer of authority in the fields of labor, trade, industry, local government, census, postal services, insurances, petroleum and gas, and agriculture. Israel has already transferred to the PA authority in the fields of tourism, education, sports, social affairs, and health.

The Israeli delegation left Cairo this afternoon following a two-day visit.

'Urayqat: No Agreement on Tel Aviv Elections

JN3105172895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 May 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, in Tel Aviv, by radio correspondent Yasir 'Atilah in studio on 31 May—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atilah] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat: Good afternoon.

['Urayqat] Good afternoon.

['Atilah] Dr. Sa'ib: You have just emerged from a meeting with Yo'el Singer. The question is: Have you reached an agreement on the two points of disagreement; namely, the participation of East Jerusalemites in the elections and the membership of the local council to be elected?

['Urayqat] We have submitted a blanket paper to the Israeli delegation on the elections from A to Z. This paper has summed up the negotiations conducted over the past few months. In essence, the elections in question are Palestinian elections. They are part of the interim agreement. That is, there will have to be a redeployment of Israeli troops and a transfer of powers. Meanwhile, the relevant legal and security issues have to be addressed. As regards the outstanding issues, we have reviewed the overall agreement, including the participation of East Jerusalem citizens in the elections. The basic thing to be emphasized is that we are not discussing the final status of Jerusalem, nor are we discussing any issue pertaining to Jerusalem outside the framework of the Jerusalem citizens' participation in the election process. As for the election process, it consists of a host of components: Running for the elections, voter lists, election campaigns, and ballot boxes. We have reviewed many of these issues. I cannot say that an agreement has been reached. Nevertheless, I can say that all aspects of the issue have been addressed. We seek to see a thorough participation in the elections. Israel argued in the past that Jerusalemites will only be allowed to cast their votes in the elections. At present, they realize that according to the constituencies system, the Jerusalem voters cannot cast their votes in favor of candidates running in Jericho, Janin, or Gaza. As a matter of fact, this is impossible to conceive. However, the issue is still under consideration. We will do our best to ensure that all people take part in the election process.

As regards the council membership, as you know, from the outset we have demanded a council membership of 100. We have trained our cadres how to handle the election of 100 members. It is my belief that this is an intra-Palestinian issue. The elections in question are not for the parliament of an independent state. Its functions are restricted as spelled out in the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. Consequently, the issue of membership is an intra- Palestinian affair. This was our position, which we maintained today, and which we will maintain in the future.

['Atilah] Dr. Sa'ib: Given the discussions and deliberations you have held, have you felt signs of change in the positions of the two sides?

['Urayqat] Let me say that the participation of the Jerusalem citizens in the elections is still under consideration. Papers and ideas are being exchanged on it. The issue is not closed. It is still open for discussion. We can reach agreement on the issue, one that ensures the participation of the Jerusalemites in the elections in terms of voting and standing for election. This is my personal view. However, I cannot say that any agreement has been reached in this regard.

['Atilah] Given the current pace of the negotiations, do you think that it is possible to reach an agreement in this regard before the 1 July deadline?

['Urayqat] Regarding the elections, yes, that is very possible. It is even possible to work out an agreement in this regard well before that. That is, with regard to the Palestinian elections. The Israeli debate revolved around those to be allowed to stand for election and those not to be allowed to do so. The Israeli positions regarding this issue are no longer enshrined in the [draft] agreements. Many points of disagreement have been resolved. With regard to the issue of international monitoring of the elections, it has been finalized. As Palestinians, we have invited the EU to coordinate the international monitoring of the elections. An EU delegation will arrive on 12 June to work with us on this issue. I believe that the attainment of an agreement on the elections ahead of the 1 July deadline is contingent upon the other provisions enshrined in the interim agreement, such as the redeployment of the Israeli troops outside populated areas in the rest of the West Bank. In this regard, we have to underline a basic and sensitive issue; namely; that it is impossible to conceive holding elections in the presence of Israeli military personnel. That is, the Israeli troops must be redeployed outside our cities, villages, camps, hamlets, and any other Palestinian community, even if it were to include only a few Palestinian camps. In accordance with the DOP, the Israeli troops must be withdrawn from these areas. This must coincide with the deployment of the Palestinian troops in these areas so that they may promote order and keep the public peace.

With regard to the transfer of powers, this is currently under discussion in Cairo.

As for the annex on economic issues, it has to be negotiated. I believe that some of the relevant negotiations have been conducted. Nevertheless, the negotiations on all of these issues have continued. It is our hope—and I believe this is possible—that we will reach an agreement before the 1 July deadline. This is largely contingent upon the Israeli side's commitment to the provisions enshrined in the DOP, particularly with regard to the redeployment outside populated areas in the rest of the West Bank without any exceptions.

Israeli, Syrian Envoys Discuss Christopher Tour

TA3105165495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent has learned that the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors in Washington met yesterday and discussed the preparations for next week's shuttle tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on Mideast Peace Process, NPT

BR3105124395 Paris LE FIGARO in French 30 May 95 p 3

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Claude Lorieux; place and date not given: "Husni Mubarak: 'No Use Talking With Fundamentalists'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lorieux] Israel has dropped its plans to confiscate Arab land in Jerusalem. The Syrians and Israeli will resume talks on the evacuation of the Golan Heights and related security arrangements. Is the peace process finally back on track?

[Mubarak] Not yet. More than words is needed, even when those come from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. I am waiting for real progress. I shall be waiting for talks to resume as scheduled in June.

[Lorieux] Yasir 'Arafat has been going from failure to deadlock. Will he be able to survive a failure in the negotiations regarding the redeployment of Israeli troops and the organization of elections for the Autonomous Council in Gaza and the West Bank?

[Mubarak] If the Israeli-Palestinian agreements in principle — made in Oslo and elsewhere — are not honored, 'Arafat will not be able to keep the region under control. Terrorism will escalate.

[Lorieux] In Gaza and the West Bank?

[Mubarak] The West Bank and Gaza will be the hub, the axis of terrorism. But it may spread beyond this area.

[Lorieux] And Hamas is waiting for the peace process to collapse.

[Mubarak] Palestinian fundamentalists are not the only ones gambling on this. Every fundamentalist in the region does the same. This is what worries me most.

[Lorieux] Are the Americans and Israeli aware of the urgent need for a breakthrough?

[Mubarak] I have been telling them this for ages. Should the Israeli-Palestinian talks fail, we shall witness a disaster worse than any that happened in the Middle East in a long time. A number of governments still have not realized this.

[Lorieux] Both the Israelis and the Americans are about to enter an electoral period. Is this another obstacle for the peace talks?

[Mubarak] Possibly. The situation in the Knesset does not make things any easier. And yet the talks must continue, otherwise we will have a disaster on our hands.

[Lorieux] Disaster was nearly there when Israel determined to nationalize Arab land in Jerusalem. Thanks to Mr. Rabin's decision not to go ahead with this, the Arabs have been able to call off the special Rabat summit they had been preparing. Since many heads of state are not on speaking terms, organizing the meeting was difficult!

[Mubarak] To understand divisions in the Arab world, you must go back to the invasion of Kuwait. Suppose a man breaks into your house, throws you out on the street, murders your children, and steals all your hard-saved cash. And you would have to tell him "Hi, how are you doing, how are things at home?" The Gulf war created fractures. However, things are looking up. Yasir 'Arafat has met with King Fahd and President al-Asad. Jordan now has an ambassador in Saudi Arabia. Clearing the air takes time.

[Lorieux] You are the only Arab head of state who manages to maintain good relations with just about everyone! What is your secret?

[Mubarak] I am not about to tell you. How could I work should everyone know about it! But it does work. I have my own way of tackling things and talking to people. This does bring results.

[Lorieux] What about Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad? He reportedly has two potential ways out: either concluding an honorable peace with Israel, or refusing to sign should the Israelis demand too many concessions. Either way, his image will improve.

[Mubarak] This is not the way al-Asad thinks. He has no need to build himself up as a great man. I hope Israel will be flexible enough to achieve peace.

[Lorieux] Do you believe there will be a breakthrough in the talks between Syria and Israel?

[Mubarak] I pray to God for it to happen.

[Lorieux] Hafiz al-Asad was a fellow student of yours in Egypt's Pilots' Academy. Did you know him well?

[Mubarak] We did not meet very often. We were of different ranks. I was a major, and he was a captain. We were not in the same squadron.

[Lorieux] Was he a good pilot?

[Mubarak] Yes, a night pilot.

[Lorieux] Were you one as well?

[Mubarak] No, I flew both by day and by night. Later, when he became Syria's president, I sometimes teased him: "You can see at night, that's good. I can also see by daylight!"

[Lorieux] The United States vetoed a Security Council resolution condemning the confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem. Is it still disqualified [as published] to act as mediator between Israel and the Arabs?

[Mubarak] The United States is the only superpower, the only country in a position to help both sides achieve an agreement. How then could I say it is not qualified? This does not mean we must accept a decision it makes if we deem it unfair.

[Lorieux] What about Europe? What about France? You call upon them when America disappoints you!

[Mubarak] I will answer this with a story. Almost every time I leave Cairo to go anywhere, I stop over in Paris. Sometimes because my plane needs to refuel, sometimes to spend the night.

[Lorieux] You were the first Arab head of state who paid a visit to Jacques Chirac. Are you afraid of a change in policy?

[Mubarak] No. France and Egypt have known each other for 200 years. In France, a new president does not mean a new foreign policy. There was no change when Francois Mitterrand was elected. I am certain things will be the same with Jacques Chirac. We are working very hard at strengthening our relationship.

[Lorieux] Do you know Jacques Chirac well?

[Mubarak] I have known him for 20 years. I was vice president at the time. I met him at the international air show in Le Bourget, which I had visited before as a flyer. I was fascinated by France's military industry, and also by its civilian industry. I was determined to purchase military aircraft from France, and to reinforce relations between our countries.

[Lorieux] Egypt's security forces have had a number of successes against armed Islamic groups in Upper Egypt.

[Mubarak] You should not say "Islamic groups" — since Islam is against violence — but "terrorist groups."

[Lorieux] I stand corrected. After these successes, your regime turned against the Muslim Brotherhood. You have already arrested about 60 of its members....

[Mubarak] There is no such thing as a Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. This is an outlawed organization. They are just like fundamentalists. They are the cause of all problems. In 1928, they killed the prime minister. Later, they tried to kill al-Nasir in Alexandria. They "bluffed" his successor, President al-Sadat, by assuming the guise of moderates. And al-Sadat was killed by a terrorist that was part of their circles. Such is the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Lorieux] What has happened since?

[Mubarak] We had a dialogue with them for 10 years, until the 1991 riots. I have no right to let them defy the law. However, if they are punished, it is on a judge's orders, because they committed crimes. I am not the one who sent them to jail. But we do need to be firm with such people. In France, was not [Outgoing Interior Minister] Charles Pasqua firm in his handling of fundamentalists? It is no use talking with such people.

[Lorieux] Will the Muslim Brotherhood as such be able to take part in the November parliamentary election?

[Mubarak] Any Egyptian has a right to run for office. But nobody can run under the banner of an outlawed organization such as the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Lorieux] And yet they are allowed to do so in Jordan....

[Mubarak] Conditions are not comparable. Let me give you two figures: Jordan has 3 million inhabitants, while Egypt has 60 million. Jordan's parliament has 60 members, ours has 500.

[Lorieux] Egyptian intellectuals consider that terrorists, including those who attacked Nobel Prize winner Naguib Mahfouz, found inspiration, or even support, in the discourse of famous TV preachers.

[Mubarak] I fail to see where the problem is when a personality makes a speech on television. The Egyptians are perfectly able to see through the hype. They know the good from the bad. A personality has a right to criticize a book, not to ban it or have it impounded. This is up to the judges.

[Lorieux] You also asked Arab states to sign an "anti-fundamentalist charter." Did they listen to you?

[Mubarak] When I first spoke of terrorism and fanaticism, people would not always listen. Many a government thought itself safe from terrorists. Obviously, this is no longer the case. We were right, and everybody is aware of it now.

[Lorieux] Is a common front of Sunnite and Shi'ite fundamentalist muslims at all possible?

[Mubarak] What matters is not whether they are Shi'ite or Sunnite! This is a all about money!

[Lorieux] And where does the money come from?

[Mubarak] No comment.

[Lorieux] After the Gulf war, the Saudi Government cut off its funding to fundamentalist groups. Have private Saudi citizens done the same?

[Mubarak] You cannot control the actions of private citizens. They can act all the more freely when they have foreign bank accounts. At any rate, the Saudi Government does not support islamic groups financially.

[Lorieux] During discussions on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Egypt condemned Israel's unofficial nuclear monopoly in the Middle East. And yet, the treaty was renewed. What did you gain?

[Mubarak] Our intervention helped all countries worldwide understand the intrinsic danger of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. The issue was first broached during the Camp David talks between Israel and Egypt. We raised it once again for two reasons: First of all because at that very time of NPT renewal, we could not accept that Israel should stockpile nuclear weapons 40 km from our border. Second, we consider that the existence of nuclear weapons is shocking at a time when we have all been striving to settle the Middle East conflict once and for all. We are not asking the Israelis to dismantle their nuclear weapons immediately. We are merely waiting for some headway to be made.

[Lorieux] Has there been any?

[Mubarak] No. But we are not going to stand idle. Talks will continue until we reach a fair settlement. If we fail to rid the region of mass destruction stockpiles, everybody will start manufacturing nuclear weapons. Iraq used to have them. Today, we hear that Iran has them.

[Lorieux] Do you approve of President Clinton's decision to enforce an embargo against the Iranian Islamic Republic?

[Mubarak] This is merely a U.S. embargo. Its impact will be nil.

[Lorieux] Unlike the one that has been enforced on Iraq since 1990?

[Mubarak] I am not worried about Saddam Husayn. What I worry about is suffering among the Iraqi population. They lack food and medical supplies. The international community must find a way to help them.

[Lorieux] Without helping the regime as well?

[Mubarak] This is a problem. But we must save the Iraqi people.

[Lorieux] Has Egypt's economy become more stable?

[Mubarak] Inflation has dropped to about 7 percent. The budget deficit has significantly decreased.

[Lorieux] However, your talks with the IMF have not been going too well.

[Mubarak] I would not say this. We reached a proposed agreement in March. Two months later, the IMF wanted to change it. I failed to see its reasons.

[Lorieux] After leading third-world countries in the struggle against the NPT, is Egypt taking up a crusade against IMF experts?

[Mubarak] Some of the IMF's recommendations were perfectly reasonable and we shall implement them. However, we cannot accept steps that are dangerous for our people's living standards. The IMF would have the Egyptian pound devalued by 30 percent over six months. For most Egyptians, this would mean price increase of some 90 percent. I do not understand.

[Lorieux] So you will fight the IMF?

[Mubarak] We have been talking. I do not fight. I take those steps that appear to be good for the Egyptian people.

Court Sentences 2 Jihad Members to Death

NC3105124195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1035 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 May (MENA) — The Higher Military Court has passed death sentences against two defendants charged with attempting to revive the al-Jihad organization, Husam Hasan Sulayman and Ahmad Mahmud 'Abd-al-Rahman.

The court has passed sentences against 28 defendants in this case, ranging from life at hard labor to one year in prison; and it acquitted 12 others.

The Higher Military Court sentenced six defendants to life at hard labor, seven to hard labor for 15 years, three defendants to hard labor for 10 years, and five defendants to hard labor for five years.

The court also sentenced one defendant to 10 years in prison, two defendants to four years, and two other defendants to three years. It also imposed a 500-pound fine on one of them, sentenced one defendant to two years in prison, and another one to one year plus a 500-pound fine.

The court has acquitted 12 defendants in the case, which involves 42 suspects.

The sentencing in the case of attempting to revive the al-Jihad organization was held amid strict security measures and lasted about 15 minutes.

Before announcing the verdicts, the court president emphasized that the case represented a tragic episode in which the suspects competed in killing and destruction to terrify peaceful citizens, cause disorder, and violate law and order in the country while waving the banner of religion unjustifiably and hiding under its protection.

He said the court has checked the documents in the case and found they contained no ideology or doctrine except the ideology of crime and doctrine of terrorism and murder. He said the court finds that the case does not involve ideology or principles, because the freedoms of ideology and religion are guaranteed for everyone.

Labor Party Protests to U.S. Embassy Over UN Veto

NC3105122295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 May 95 p 8

["Text" of a protest memorandum handed to officials at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo by Labor Party representatives on 23 May]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian people — from all sects, classes, and nationalist forces — received with deep shock your completely biased position in favor of Israel's aggressive nature and its desire to expand and seize new regions in east Jerusalem.

Let it be clear that every Egyptian, whether Muslim or Copt, is prepared to die for Jerusalem. We will accept nothing less than the return of Arab Jerusalem as it was before the 1967 aggression.

The veto the United States unilaterally used to block the UN Security Council resolution is a stab in the heart for every Egyptian, Arab, and Muslim. And as you know very well, the veto conflicts with all provisions of international law and all relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

Let it be known that there will be no normal relations between the United States and the people of Egypt unless the United States retreats from this position and stops its attempts to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

We express deep regret at the U.S. veto and strongly protest it. You should realize fully that we sincerely reflect the conscience of the Egyptian people.

If this protest goes unheeded, you should expect the Egyptian people to react against Egyptian-U.S. relations, which cannot continue to be normal in view of this intransigence and absolute bias in favor of Israel's aggressiveness.

Speaker: Amended Criminal Law No Threat to Democracy

NC3005212395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur has announced that the recent amendments to the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedures Law, which provide for stiffer penalties, are designed to protect press freedoms and prevent news profiteering and other erroneous practices.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM published on Wednesday, Surur denied that the new amendments aim to restrict freedom of expression and opinion or constructive criticism, even if it is criticism of the government's policy.

He said a journalist cannot be questioned about any view he expresses, even if it is too extravagant, because that falls under the heading of the freedom of expression. He noted that, therefore, there is no threat to democracy in Egypt, now or in the future.

Surur added that the amendments do not contravene common sense and make it necessary for a journalist to ascertain the truth of the news he publishes. It is not sufficient just to think that the news is true. He pointed out that this requirement constitutes putting established criminal theory into the form of a law.

Asked why the new amendments to the Penal Code introduced a provision for preventive custody of journalists, something that was not done before, Dr. Surur explained that this was done to treat people equally before the law and not exempt journalists from a procedure that can be used against other members of the public if an investigator sees fit.

Surur said that the new amendments stiffen penalties for the dissemination of false news, tendentious rumors, and sensational propaganda which aim at provoking panic among the members of the public and showing contempt for the state's institutions and the officials in charge of them.

Morocco

Minister Interviewed on Privatization Efforts

95AF0077A Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 13 Apr 95 pp 35, 36

[Interview with Minister of Privatization Abderrahmane Saaidi by Bahia Amrani; place and date not given: "The Taboos Have Been Lifted"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Morocco. Minister Abderrahmane Saaidi has said it: despite the opposition's reservations, privatizations will extend to every sector in the economy.*

In 1994 the goal was achieving 3.5 billion dirhams in revenue. That was exceeded.

When he returned to Morocco in 1976 loaded down with French degrees—certified public accountant from the Graduate School of Business with a major in finance—a specialist's certificate in financial and accounting management, and a B.A. in law, Abderrahmane Saaidi was far from thinking that a minister's portfolio would be awarded to him one day.

After having been a professor at the University of Casablanca for more than six years, in 1985 he founded a certified public accountancy office that he managed himself, all the while taking part in various national commissions dealing with standardizing accounting and fiscal reform.

In November 1993 he was named to head up the brand-new Privatization Ministry, then confirmed in his position in last 29 February's cabinet reshuffle. The size and the sensitive nature of the privatization program make him one of the new Filali team's key men.

At age 49, Saaidi is one of a number of technocrats to whom Hassan II appealed because of their skills and their political noninvolvement.

Might there be a delay in the ambitious privatization program Morocco is counting on to bail out its treasury, as the opposition press has said? Saaidi brought us up to date.

[Amrani] How do you explain the delay that the privatization operation is experiencing in Morocco?

[Saaidi] The bill was voted on in 1989, and the first privatizations didn't start until 1993. The government made use of this period to designate those agencies that will take part in privatization. There were also the negative effects from the Gulf war in 1991. So we were late in launching the operation. But, since then, there hasn't been a delay.

[Amrani] But didn't the bill anticipate a program that would end in 1995?

[Saaidi] Absolutely not. The bill did not anticipate any program.

[Amrani] Didn't the bill anticipate privatizing 112 businesses between 1990 and 1995?

[Saaidi] There we're talking about a deadline and a maximum number. The real program arises from the finance bill. Now in 1994 that bill anticipated 3.5 billion dirhams in income from privatizations, which we slightly exceeded with our 3.7 billion.

The government had asked Parliament for authorization to transfer a number of businesses to the private sector. Taking into consideration the reticence on the part of the political parties and members of Parliament in the area of privatization, whose effects were not known, Parliament had limited our maneuvering room to a maximum of 112 listed businesses. The government wanted to be free to sell every public business with the exception of those considered to be strategic. Parliament had refused and set a limit on implementation and time. Provided the balance sheet was drawn up after that date.

[Amrani] So you've drawn up the balance sheet before the final date?

[Saaidi] It is a positive one. Even companies such as oil refineries, which were considered strategic two or three years ago, can now be privatized. Five years ago it would have been taboo to talk of privatizing SAMIR [expansion not given] and SCP [expansion not given]. Now it's an accepted fact. So we were granted an extension on two fronts: the list and the deadline.

[Amrani] You're speaking of Parliament?

[Saaidi] Yes. The list of companies that can be privatized now has 114 firms on it. The official extension has been put off until 31 December 1998. The government is thinking of others for a second round. That is the case for telecommunications.

[Amrani] When do you anticipate submitting them to Parliament?

[Saaidi] As soon as the file is ready.

[Amrani] Wasn't it possible for you to speed up the process?

[Saaidi] We are speeding it up while we put certain operations to one side. For example, the case of FERTIMA [expansion not given]: we launched the operation and realized it was a very sensitive business that affects every farmer in the kingdom. It has a quasi-monopoly. And, since we haven't found a buyer who could promote market transparency, we slowed the file down. Besides we have rules and procedures that, to ensure the greatest transparency, force us to go slowly.

[Amrani] The opposition has accused you of not earmarking income from privatization for investments and equipment, as the prime minister had promised.

[Saaidi] In Morocco we don't have budgetary specialization. Income is not allocated to specific expenditures except in exceptional circumstances. That was true of the 1994 finance bill in which, on instructions from His Majesty, the King, one billion dirhams' worth of income from privatizations had to be earmarked to employ young people. Having said that, the result of privatizations is perforce allocated to investment because that is financed by special income and privatization is special income.

[Amrani] The parties have also been talking of the risk of the privatizations' negative impact on employment.

[Saaidi] Thus far we haven't had a single social incident arising from privatization. We are only privatizing businesses that have no underlying social problem. Furthermore we are requiring that maintaining social and labor costs be a part of costs.

[Amrani] That's not true of the OCE [expansion not given]. People have been talking about 1,000 layoffs.

[Saaidi] That was a dismantling operation that took place before privatization. In that instance, the capital was not transferred to the private sector. Certain OCE activities were merely assigned to another entity.

The privatization program gives salaried workers the advantage since they can acquire stock at a price that is lower than the one established by the value of the stock. The law sets aside 15 percent below par for salaried workers.

[Amrani] Given Morocco's budgetary problems, can't revenues be increased by means of privatization?

[Saaidi] Yes, but for us privatization is much more a question of giving impetus to the Moroccan economy, of creating an environment that is suited to investment whether it be public or private, local or foreign.

The economy profits from it because we're educating savers so they can go in the direction of modern forms of investment and savings and turn away from forms that are of a more or less speculative nature. The banking sector as well has profited from privatization with investment operations on the Stock Exchange.

[Amrani] And what about the current year?

[Saaidi] For 1995 we have a more ambitious program. We have again set a 3.5 billion dirham goal. But we have major operations: the BMCE [expansion not given], etc.

[Amrani] It's already privatized.

[Saaidi] The stock market segment has been transferred. But there's also a 26-percent share that has to be transferred by means of a call for bids and where the deadline was 31 March. We also have the BNDE [expansion not given], the CIH [expansion not given], and SAMIR, whose value alone far exceeds 3.5 billion, the SCP, etc.

[Amrani] So will the SAMIR transfer take place this year?

[Saaidi] Yes. The audit is already under way, and I hope we'll have the assessment by the end of May. There's also the People's Bank that we've been working on for two years, which by itself accounts for two to three billion dirhams. That's like saying we could easily come up with the 3.5 billion in anticipated revenues.

Unemployed Scientists Protest to Government

*95AF0076A Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French
27 Apr 95 pp 18, 19*

[Article by Bahia Amrani: "Ph.D. in Unemployment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Morocco: They are nuclear doctors, biologists, and geologists. There are 200,000 of them who cannot find work. And they are letting the world know.*

For three days (19-21 April), between 0800 and 2000 hours, 65 young men with doctorates in science have been occupying the National Higher Education Union [SNESup]'s headquarters in Rabat, where they have been conducting a hunger strike! Mohamed, 37 years old, holds a doctorate in electrochemistry and has his degree from the University of Paris. Married and with one child, he has been unemployed for four years and is at his wits end when it comes to feeding his small family. His debts are mounting: 60,000 dirhams (37,000 French francs). Hassan, 27, holds a doctorate in mechanical physics awarded by the University of Metz. To complete his studies, he took out a 70,000-dirham (43,000 French francs) bank loan that he was already supposed to start repaying seven months ago, but he does not know how he'll do it. He has no job. He is married and he is living off his father-in-law, a worker of modest income.

All the others are more or less in the same boat. They are nuclear physicists, biologists, or geologists; they are between the ages of 27 and 38; and they have no jobs and face huge difficulties. During their two to four years of unemployment, they have sought work at every university and agency that could be interested in their areas. They have knocked on every door. In vain.

One month ago, for the first time, a member of the government listened to them. But, Driss Khalil, the Minister of Higher Education, Cadres Training, and Scientific Research, merely asked for their files. Having grown tired of waiting, they organized a protest movement: It would consist of a hunger strike and a letter to the prime minister. They are asking that a dialogue be started to find a solution to their problems. They are the same problems that many other young unemployed university graduates are experiencing.

There are some 200,000 of them, and they have founded an association that is barely tolerated: the Association of Unemployed Moroccan University Graduates. It held its constituent congress in 1990 in Casablanca at the Democratic Labor Confederation [CDT]'s headquarters, similar to the USFP [expansion not given]). [In Morocco] young people are generally close to opposition parties or labor unions.

Besides, it is the offices of these parties and labor unions that are housing their activities (the association has its permanent office at the CDT). They have never been authorized to organize an independent demonstration.

In Front of Parliament

That has not stopped the association, which has chapters in the main cities, from organizing, as it did last year in front of Parliament, protest days and sit-ins, which have always been broken up by the police.

All of the unemployed university graduates' demands can be summed up in one word: a job. "The authorities should recognize," one member of the association said, "our right to work, which the constitution guarantees to every Moroccan. We believe we're the victims of their policy. The government hasn't had any jobs strategy. It hasn't been able to come up with the right formula for training and employment. Today we find there's more supply than demand. Thousands of university graduates are out there, useless to society. We're a burden to everyone, but we're the only ones who pay the price."

The 65 strikers in Rabat are not members of the Association of Unemployed University Graduates. They even say they are ready, if the government does not start talking to them, to set up their own association that will represent unemployed university graduates with degrees in science.

But the problems of all these young graduates are identical. There are some 180,000 of them who pour out onto the labor market each year. Now neither the government nor the private sector is able to absorb this new work force.

Since it faced problems in the early 1980's, Morocco had to accept a structural adjustment program (SAP). After 10 years of budgetary austerity imposed by the IMF, the country completed the first part of the program successfully in 1993. But it continues to feel the social fallout from the SAP. With the drought aggravating economic imbalances, the state is less and less a supplier of jobs. For example, the 1994 finance bill, which anticipated creating 25,000 budgeted jobs, only created 11,600, and 1995's [bill] reduced its forecast to only 12,702 jobs (and implementing this is uncertain, given poor harvests and keeping in mind the fact that creating one budgeted job costs 200,000 dirhams). As for the private sector, it cannot close the gap. According to a study done by the National Youth and Future Council (CNJA), it is already the main employer, creating as it does each year between 100,000 and 180,000 jobs, all sectors taken together. Since the crisis brings about restrictions at every level, prospects also shrink for private businesses.

The labor situation has worsened markedly in recent years. According to the Moroccan Economic Center (headed up by the CNJA's secretary general, Habib Malki), the unemployment rate, which was 13.9 percent in 1985, rose to 15.9 percent in 1993, and the rate for university graduates, which was 8.3 percent, rose to 18.7 percent during the same period. Given such a worsening, the state tried to react. A Youth and Future Council was established in July 1990 to think about unemployment problems and initiate a process of consulting with various segments of society—every element of Moroccan society being represented on it. But it is not the CNJA's mission to create jobs. It plays the role of an economic and social council, something the young unemployed university graduates do not always understand.

For them the only thing that matters is the creation of new jobs. The CNJA's secretary general has received the Association of Unemployed University Graduates and passed their demands along, but the organization is not represented on the Council. Having analyzed the situation, the CNJA is advocating a jobs policy based on a more modern management of the labor market and on restoring businesses. By decreeing 1995 to be the year of the business, the CNJA hopes to encourage young people to get jobs on their own by inviting them to establish their own business. But there too it is not understood. By a royal decision, a special one-billion-dirham allocation fund was set up in 1994 (which was increased by 10 percent in 1995). The decision was accompanied by a reform of [legal] texts pertaining to the conditions for getting young promoter's credit. Henceforth, up to the age of 45, a promoter can get upwards of 90 percent of the financing for his project—with one-half being financed by the state, the other by banks. But the 10-percent personal contribution problem remains. The fund has its advantages. Furthermore it favors job promotion in rural areas. Yet the young university graduates' problem is still acute.

One Rabat striker cried out: "We don't want to set up a research center or a nuclear power plant. We just want a job that pays."

Sudan

Al-Bashir Addresses Cooperatives Conference

EA2705204795 Khartoum SUNA in English
1748 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 27th May — President of the Republic General 'Umar al-Bashir has reiterated that the revolution is endeavoring to activate the cooperative movement in the country to contribute to the economic transformation process under the economic liberalization policy. Addressing the national cooperative conference at the friendship hall here Saturday [27 May], President Al-Bashir called on the cooperative movement to give priority to production and not to confine itself to distribution of commodities only.

He called on the cooperatives to convey consumer commodities to the citizens directly so that goods reach consumers at reasonable prices. Al-Bashir promised government support to the cooperative development bank to enable it to shoulder its role in backing cooperatives, referring to the cooperative movement's role in implementing the 10-year comprehensive national development [plan].

The session was also addressed by the chairman of the Sudanese National Cooperative Union, Al-Dirdiri 'Umar al-Mansur. He reviewed the outcome of the conference and underscored the need to boost cooperative work in Sudan.

President: Commercial Oil Exploitation To Begin

EA3005100595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has praised the great role played by the National Electricity Corporation [NEC] in pushing forward the wheel of development in the country. He stressed the revolution's interest in the NEC and the efforts being made to expand the generation volume and to raise the height of the Rusayris Dam. He said this today [29 May] when addressing the NEC employees as part of the public service revitalization program.

Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir said that the government was determined to implement the Hamdab Dam project, which represents a challenge to the Sudanese people. He said that the commercial exploitation of Sudanese oil would begin next year.

The president of the Republic also spoke about the glorious deeds of the martyr Mahmud Sharif and directed that the Bahri thermal power station be named after the martyr. Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir later addressed employees of the Foreign and Agriculture Ministries.

Rebel Faction To Extend Cease-Fire

AB3105160795 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, May 31 (AFP) — The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) is to extend a ceasefire period in the Sudanese civil war with immediate effect, it announced in a statement released here on Wednesday [31 May].

It was in response to former US president Jimmy Carter's request for a positive response to enable his Global 2000 Center to carry out unhampered an eradication programme of Guinea-worm and river blindness and immunization of children against polio and other diseases.

The ceasefire came into effect on March 28 for two months, but the southern rebel groups have accused the Sudanese government of violating it several times. "But notwithstanding the fact that the SPLA does not believe in Khartoum's pronouncements, it will allow the Carter Center to proceed in its humanitarian programme in southern Sudan", Wednesday's statement said.

The SPLA, however, appealed to the international community to include the Nuba Mountains in the two-month ceasefire, as well as to ask non-governmental organisations to use the two-month ceasefire to expedite relief supplies to war-affected areas in Sudan.

The other rebel faction, the South Sudan Independence Movement/Army (SSIM/A) has yet to issue an official statement extending the ceasefire, but a source in the movement told AFP by telephone that its officials were holding a meeting on the issue and would make its position known later.

However, he said, there was no problem on the SSIA side on renewing the ceasefire.

After initially threatening not to renew it, the Sudanese government announced on May 25 that it was extending it for another two months.

The rebels took up arms against Khartoum in 1983 to end domination of the predominantly Christian and animist south by the Arabised, Moslem north.

Saudi Arabia

'Arafat Meets OIC Chief, Holds News Conference

Receives OIC Secretary General

LD3105153795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1430 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 31 May — His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the State of Palestine, today received at his residence in Jeddah Dr. Hamid Algabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [OIC].

During the meeting they discussed the Jerusalem issue and the obstacles hampering the peace process in the Middle East.

The meeting also dealt with the subject of implementing some of the decisions taken by the OIC in order to help the Palestinian people during the critical stage through which the peace process is passing.

The OIC secretary general stressed to the Palestinian president the OIC's support for the peace process in the Middle East, which must lead to a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace comprising Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab lands including the city of east Jerusalem.

On his part, His Excellency President 'Arafat expressed his thanks and appreciation for the various initiatives undertaken by the OIC for the benefit of the Palestinian cause.

Holds News Conference

LD3105225795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2027 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 31 May — His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, held a news conference today at his residence at the conference palace in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

President Yasir 'Arafat answered correspondent's questions. In a reply to a question about whether Israel's decision to suspend its decision to confiscate some Palestinian land was sufficient, whether there was an idea to hold a summit meeting, and whether he had discussed this issue with King Fahd... [ellipses as received] he said: "It should be known that we suspended the proposed Arab summit, and it had not been cancelled in anticipation of what Israel might do over this issue."

He added: As I said a while ago, this was fully discussed in Morocco with Mr. Peres, in the presence of King Hassan II, who was supposed to sponsor the convening of a mini-summit. This was one of the important and basic points that I raised with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

He explained that the attempts or ideas that some have tried to circulate, namely that there was an internecine Palestinian dispute that challenged the unity of Palestinian struggle, had been no more than wishful thinking. These attempts never succeeded.

He said: We welcome an opposition and the freedom of opinion. Our Constitution said that the majority must respect the opinion of the minority and vice versa. We insist that this trend should prevail. We are not perturbed by the opposing view, whether it is against or in favor. On the contrary, we regard this to be one of the centers of power on which the march depends at all levels. [passage omitted]

Mr. 'Arafat added that, God willing, there would be a more dynamic move in the near future concerning the dangers looming over the city of Jerusalem, not only by the general secretariat of the organization, but also by all the Islamic states. [passage omitted]

In response to a question on the Arab moves to stop the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and the Arab position on this issue, Mr. 'Arafat said: I want to say something. This would be a contradiction of the letter of guarantees handed to us by former U.S. Secretary of State Baker after the Madrid conference. The letter specifically concerned the issue of Jerusalem and the fact that no demographic changes in Jerusalem affecting the population or housing would be permitted, i.e. no buildings and no settlers. Regrettably, this is being violated. [passage omitted]

He added that governments and states should respect their agreements, serve the international resolutions, and respect the agreements of the international community.

Replying to a question about the PLO's position if an Israeli extremist party won the elections, he said: We do not interfere in their internal issues, but what concerns us is whether there was a commitment. We have reached agreement between the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people, and the Israeli Government. We went, as an Arab nation, to the Madrid conference. Shamir, and not Rabin, also went. The one who attended the Madrid conference and agreed to President Bush's initiative "land for peace" on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 863 was the Likud. Thus, we are dealing with the Israeli Government and not with parties.

In reply to a question about his current and coming tour to consolidate the forthcoming Palestinian steps and the extent of his satisfaction with the position and support of the Islamic and Arab nation, he said that his current tour was not about this subject. I was not asked why I come to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I have come here, and also to Morocco, Algeria, Jordan, and Egypt many times. The most important thing about this particular visit is the issue of the Arab mini-summit, which we agreed to suspend and not to cancel, because it is necessary to know that the Israeli decision was a suspension and not a cancellation. The most dangerous thing about it is the new attempt to confiscate 1800 dunums from the Jabal Ghunayn area to build settlements. [passage omitted]

He went on to say: On this occasion, I would like my Arab and Muslim brothers to move quickly inside Jerusalem and protect Arab, Islamic, and Christian existence. [passage omitted]

'Arafat said: I read two days ago in AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that $117 million was earmarked by the Islamic development bank for, as if Palestine did not exist on the map of the Islamic development bank. [sentence as received] Am I not entitled to ask whether Jerusalem is on the map of the Islamic development bank or not? I believe that not only the Islamic development bank is duty bound, but every Muslim is duty bound, especially when Minister Shohat has been receiving American money and Allon [name indistinct] $10 billion, some of which has been spent and is spent on settlements. Has this agreement not been signed for building houses for settlers in Jerusalem and other places? I think that the Muslims should be at the level of their responsibility. I am confident that my brothers will act before it is too late, and all are required to make utmost efforts to confront this serious plot. [passage omitted]

'Arafat said: Thus, regrettably, there is a scheme to stifle the political position of the Palestinians so that they preoccupy themselves with day-to-day life instead of political matters, including Jerusalem. Would Arabs and Muslims be happy with this? God is my witness; I have conveyed the message on whether they would consider the U.S. Republicans's call for the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem as just an electoral maneuver, not a serious call. The Palestinian leader said: It must be realized that, whether or not they are serious, the call in itself is grave. It completely undermines the American position, and the peace process will thus be open not to destruction but to an explosion. [passage omitted]

True, America had used its right to veto, but we must not forget that 14 states were in favor of the resolution in question. In other words, the whole world was on one side and America was on the other. Then the U.S. delegate said: I am not against the core of the issue, but I object to the place of talks. Then where can we have talks if the Israelis are not happy with us and with anyone else? I am saying this so that those far afield and those close, so that everybody, understands — whether they like it or not — Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine. Thank you.

Defense Minister Discusses Military Supplies

LD0106085595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2200 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-Kharj, 31 May (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, who is presiding over several events at the General Organization for Military Industries, answered newsmen's questions today about this occasion.

Replying to a question about the difficulties encountered by the organization in the past in not receiving payment for its sales, his royal highness said: I said in the past that the organization has not yet received all the money due to it for goods supplied. But following directives from the custodian of the two holy mosques, studies are currently taking place between the Ministry of Finance and National Economy and those concerned. The Organization of Military Industries will receive all the money due to it so that it can expand production. [passage omitted]

In answer to a question about which government sectors will be covered by the factory for military clothing and equipment, which his royal highness inaugurated today, his royal highness explained that the basic recipients will be the Armed Forces, whether it is the national guard, the public security agencies, or the four branches of the Armed Forces in the Ministry of Defense.

His highness said: The factory produces more than is needed. Therefore, God willing, we will export to our brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the Arab countries whatever they may need from this excellent factory.

Replying to a question about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia obtaining the top classification in credit, only enjoyed by a limited number of countries when the kingdom paid off its last loan last week, and about his highness's view of the success of the economic balance program and the build up of military and economic power, His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said: "My colleague the finance minister, who is present, can answer the first part of your question. As for the second part, our view of the Organization [for Military Industries], and our view of production is, God willing, a realistic view which is positive and developmental."

Concerning the possibility of supplying the GCC countries with goods produced by the Saudi company for military clothing and equipment, his highness said: "As I have explained, we are the GCC, and we consider the kingdom to be a part of it."

In answer to a question about the Organization's role in caring for Saudi citizens, the prince said that we are proud of the factory, and it will save us from importing our military equipment. God willing, it could be developed to cater for civilian needs.

Yemen

President Salih, 'Arafat Discuss Arab Developments

JN3105195495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. Vice President 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani attended.

The two leaders discussed several Palestinian, Arab, and international developments, as well as issues of interest to our Arab nation. President Yasir 'Arafat briefed the brother president on the developments of the Palestine question, chief among which are the developments pertaining to the Jerusalem issue, against the background of the ongoing negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel; the developments in the regional peace process; and the situation on the Palestinian track of negotiations.

The brother president reiterated our country's principled and firm support for the Palestinian Arab people and their just cause. Moreover, he asserted that our country supports the efforts under way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, one that is grounded in the restoration of the legitimate Arab rights in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi; Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and minister of industry; Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, minister of legal affairs and House of Representatives affairs; and Brigadier General 'Abdallah al-Bashiri, secretary general of the Presidential Office.

For the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Zakariya al-Agha, minister of housing in the Palestinian Authority, and Palestinian Ambassador in Sanaa Yahya Rabah.

Israeli 'Obstacles' Considered

JN0106184695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, and his delegation left Sanaa yesterday evening after a brief visit to our country.

In a predeparture statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the Palestinian president expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his visit to his second country, Yemen. He said that he met with his brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and senior state officials.

He added that he relayed a full picture of Palestinian events to the Yemeni political leadership and briefed it on the Israeli obstacles to the Palestinian-Israeli peace march, led by holy Jerusalem which is being subjected to many enchroachments and confiscations designed to establish more Jewish settlements. These settlements aim to change Jerusalem's historic and geographic features, he said.

President 'Arafat asserted that such actions and encroachments are rejected in part and parcel by the Palestinian people and their leadership as well as by all Muslims and Christians in the world. This is because holy Jerusalem is the first of the two qiblahs [direction to which Muslims turn when they pray] and the third holiest mosque.

Asked about diplomatic efforts exerted by the Palestinian leadership to unify the Arab position on the current challenges, 'Arafat said the Arab summit scheduled for last week has been suspended and not canceled on the grounds that the basic issue still exists and needs further Arab and international support to compel the Israeli entity to implement what was agreed by the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

In this regard, he indicated that the Palestinian leadership sent a message to the UN Security Council in the name of the Palestinians and the Arab and Islamic nations. The message demanded that the Security Council keep this issue on its agenda and exert efforts along with many international parties, including the permanent Security Council member states.

Ekeus: Germ Warfare Problems 'Still Remain'

NC3105125295 Paris AFP in English
1117 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, May 31 (AFP) — Iraq has not even started to account for missing material which can be used in germ warfare, UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said here Wednesday [31 May].

"We are focusing upon how to solve the problems rather than solving them," Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission on disarming Iraq (UNSCOM), told reporters. The germ warfare problems "still remain."

Ekeus and seven experts arrived Monday seeking answers from Iraq about what happened to 17 tonnes of growth media which can be used in biological warfare as well as missing "precursors" used to produce VX nerve gas.

UN officials fear that Iraq may eventually start up a biological weapons research program — that it had admitted having until 1990 — if it keeps the growth media which can produce anthrax and botulism.

But Baghdad says the material was distributed to hospitals and destroyed during the uprisings after the 1991 Gulf war in which Iraqi troops were driven out of Kuwait.

Nor did Ekeus give any sign Iraq had explained what happened to material which can produce 200 to 250 tonnes of VX nerve gas, which Iraq admitted having tried to produce until 1988.

"We are working on these things now," Ekeus said. "We are continuing today and hopeful we will conclude the talks tonight and leave tomorrow morning."

UNSCOM spokesman Tim Trevan said Ekeus would hold another round of talks with General 'Amir 'Abd-al-Rashid, head of Iraq's military industrialization organization.

Ekeus and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz had a long meeting late Tuesday, an Iraqi official said without giving details.

BABIL newspaper called on Ekeus to "give the United Nations the truth as it is on the ground, far from political influences, in order to ensure Iraq's cooperation and complete his mission as soon as possible."

"Can Mr. Ekeus and his team express themselves frankly and objectively or will they continue to wilt under U.S. pressure as they are doing now?" asked BABIL, run by President Saddam Husayn's eldest son 'Udayy.

The former Swedish diplomat said his talks in Baghdad would help him write a report to the UN Security Council on June 19 so it can take "a decisive decision."

Under UN resolutions ending the Gulf war for Kuwait, Baghdad must dismantle its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons as well as ballistic missiles — a requirement for the lifting of the oil embargo.

Iraq insists it has met its disarmament obligations and warned it "cannot continue cooperating indefinitely" with the United Nations if the oil embargo is not lifted soon.

The UN Security Council imposed economic sanctions after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Saddam's Attempts To Calm al-Ramadi Unsuccessful

NC3105170395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Recent travelers arriving in Europe from Baghdad have reported that Saddam Husayn's attempts to contain the explosive situation in al-Ramadi and appease the tribal chiefs there have failed so far to calm the situation. They described the temporary truce between the regime and the sons of al-Anbar Governorate as threatened by explosion at any moment. In statements to our radio correspondent, the travelers added that the Baghdad ruler offered financial compensation to the al-Ramadi figures amounting to [word indistinct] dinars and pardoning those who took part in the recent armed confrontation with the regime's gangs in the governorate in an attempt to reconcile with them. However, all these offers were met with great coolness and did not succeed in containing the popular anger against the regime which erupted in the middle of this month after the regime executed over 60 officers and officials from al-Dulaym tribes which are concentrated in al-Ramadi.

Western sources pointed out during the past few days that the situation in Iraq is heading toward an explosion. Assistant U.S. Secretary of State David Mack said that U.S. intelligence reports from Iraq confirm that the Saddam Husayn regime will not survive very long, which is a clear indication of the extent of the chaos in the regime represented in the sharp conflicts among the members of the ruling regime and the increasing wave of popular anger about the deteriorating economic and security conditions in the country.

Leaflets Threaten Regime Perpetrators

NC3105172195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leaflets distributed in Baghdad, al-Ramadi, and al-Fallujah threatened the individuals of the so-called Saddam fedayeen, who are supervised by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, with just punishment for their many crimes against the sons of al-Dulaym tribes during the recent rampages which included storming all houses and homes under the pretext of searching for weapons. These leaflets, which were signed by the movement of the sons of al-Dulaym tribes in Iraq, held 'Udayy personally responsible for the lives of seven women who were arrested last week to put pressure on their husbands to hand themselves over to Saddam's security organs under the pretext of carrying arms and shooting at members of Saddam's fedayeen terrorist organization.

The leaflets, which were widely distributed in all parts of the capital, exposed the motives behind Saddam's revenge against the citizens of al-Anbar and the sons of al-Dulaym tribes. The leaflets said: The criminal ruler Saddam and his murderous son want to create problems between the citizens of al-Anbar and their brothers, the other Iraqi strugglers. They said that the policy of racial, ethnic, and regional discrimination that Saddam follows will not work on the Iraqis who today stand united against the enemy of the people. The leaflets also said that many women of al-Ramadi residents were raped during the rampages in the defenseless houses in the city by Saddam's fedayeen. The perpetrators of these crimes will not go unpunished; they are known to the sons of al-Dulaym one by one.

The leaflets affirmed that the organs of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn have now arrested, in addition to seven women, eight shaykhs, including Nawwaf Rashid Farhan, Shaykh Husayn 'Abbud al-Mukahhal who is a religious figure in al-Ramadi, Shaykh Hakim Munawir 'Allawi, and Shaykh Ghazi Jiyad al-Dar'ami who is the grand shaykh of Al Bu'itah.

On another level, the regime's security organs opened a joint headquarters in al-Ramadi under the supervision of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn. The headquarters house units, armed with artillery and missiles, have the mission of carrying out surprise attacks on the districts of al-Ramadi and the areas around it and sending out patrols inside and outside the city on the roads leading to Hit, Hadithah, (al-Tubayqah), and al-Qa'im. At the same time, service cars operating on the Baghdad-Jordan line were prevented from going through al-Ramadi and were re-routed to the highway outside the city.

Explosion Rocks Security Building in al-Basrah

NC3105170495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A strong explosion has rocked the al-Harthah Security Directory building in al-Basrah, killing and wounding a number of the Saddam regime's security troops and causing severe damage to the building.

According to eyewitnesses, troops from the ruling regime in Iraq have cordoned off the area and conducted extensive searches of citizens' homes to look for those responsible for the explosion, which is the result of an explosive device.

Saddam Chairs Revolution Command Council Meeting

JN0106095295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0937 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 1 Jun (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council. The head of the Presidential Office, the foreign minister, and the culture and information minister attended the meeting.

Saddam Meets MIO Director, Air Defense Commander

JN3105211195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 31 May (INA) — Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has met with Engineer Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO]; the commander of the Air Defense, who holds the rank of staff major general; and several senior employees of the MIO and the Air Defense Command. They reviewed the current status of the Air Defense and ways to further improve it.

Syria Said Aware of Year-Old Golan Evacuation Plan

TA0106071495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that without high-level meetings between the heads of government, the talks between Syria and Israel are not likely to lead to an agreement. In a briefing to Israeli reporters in Washington, Peres said the issue of stationing American troops in the Golan Heights is an invention of the opposition in Israel.

Foreign Minister Peres says the government has never discussed the dismantling of settlements on the Golan. Peres told reporters while there are several contingency plans for an evacuation, the time has not yet come to discuss them.

But, political sources in Jerusalem stressed last night that there are no specific plans regarding the evacuation of settlements from the Golan. A Qol Yisra'el reporter adds that the plan for evacuating one settlement on the Golan has been in existence for a year, and that it was presented to the American officials who gave it to the Syrians. [passage omitted]

Peres on Syrian, Palestinian Tracks at UN Forum

TA3105145195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 May 95 p 1

[Report by Marilyn Henry in New York]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "In my judgment, if Syria says no to the (latest) American proposal, this would be the end of negotiations," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, referring to reports of a recent breakthrough with Damascus, said yesterday at the United Nations.

"I don't know what the policies of President al-Asad are.... Why the process moves so slowly is an enigma," Peres said. He said political time was running out on the negotiations with Syria because of elections in both Israel and the U.S.

Achieving peace with Syria and Lebanon would be different from peace with other countries, not because Syria is more important than Egypt, Jordan or the Palestinians, but because "this will be the end of war in the Middle East," he said.

Discussing the negotiations with the Palestinians, Peres told delegates from more than 100 nations, invited by UN envoy Gad Ya'aqobi for a briefing on events in the Middle East, that Israel intends to meet the July 1 target date for reaching an agreement with them. But he said he anticipated "one or two crises" along the way.

"As for...my government... we are determined to win peace even if we shall endanger winning elections. We feel that winning peace is more important than winning elections," he said. "Because of the peace process, we are gaining historically but losing politically. We shall see the fruits of the peace maybe in 10 or 15 years but we have to pay the cost of the peace right away."

Asked about a rumor that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had intervened with the Arab parties in Israel to withdraw from last week's no-confidence motion, Peres said he doubted the PLO leader had done so.

Questioned about the controversy surrounding the proposed Jerusalem land expropriations, Peres said: "The noise exceeded the story."

Peres expressed concern that the expropriation had taken the appearance of an "international scandal," and said, "We have never signed a promise to freeze life in Jerusalem — it is impossible."

Comments on Peace Accord With Syria

TA3105153395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 31 May 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Israeli correspondents in Washington on 31 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peres] The government has discussed nothing at all that has to do with maps or the dismantling of settlements. There are merely contingency plans, and as it always happens with contingency, there is more than one plan. However, the time to decide on this issue has not arrived yet.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Arye Golan] Have the Syrians clearly and explicitly renounced their demand for equal security arrangements?

[Peres] How can we speak of equality at all? There is only one mountain, while you need two for equality. The question is not just the size of the territory, but also its height. In fact, height is more significant than size in the Golan Heights' case. Therefore, anyone speaking of equality is ignoring geography, and anyone speaking of geographical equality is not looking at topography.

[Golan] Are the Syrians looking as yet?

[Peres] They are starting to.

Peres, Omani Minister Meet in Washington

Peres Defines 'Holy Land'

TA3105162495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, in Washington a short while ago. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Golan. The Omani minister said after the meeting that the two countries would soon establish formal ties.

Replying to questions from Israeli reporters, Minister Peres said that the Golan is not a holy land, and that we did not come there to look for prophets or temple priests. He announced that as he understands it, the holy land includes Jerusalem, Zion, and Eretz Yisra'el within their changing boundaries. [passage omitted]

Omani Minister on Diplomatic Relations

TA3105180095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 May 95

[Ya'aqov Ahime'ir video report in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today held a meeting with the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, which must have been the first videorecorded meeting between the two ministers. No decision on the establishment of diplomatic ties was made today.

[Begin recording, in English] [Ahime'ir] Why can't you open diplomatic relations now?

[Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs] I think you understand that the meetings by themselves have an importance. So, what you are talking about is something which we call protocol, which has its own way of arrangement.

[Ahime'ir] What about the other Gulf states?

[Bin-'Alawi] I don't talk about the others, but in general, I would say, everyone has been supportive of peace process, and peace finally should prevail, and peace means relationship. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Peres, Rabin Statements Seen 'Conning' Arabs, Israelis

TA3105142795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 30 May 95 p 3

[Article by Nahum Barne'a: "Play-Acting Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Thursday [25 May] Shim'on Peres came to Bet Berl. He delivered an enthusiastic speech before the Labor Party Standing Committee members. He announced in the speech that the price of peace with Syria would be like the price of peace with Egypt. When he finished, Rabin summoned him for a talk. After the talk, Peres redefined the semantic meaning of the term "like." "Like," according to Peres, means "similar to," not "identical," which proves that Peres can outshine any top linguist when necessary.

Peres' and Rabin's way to the 1967 borders is rife with this kind of quibbling. Even the supporters of the process and its price are astounded by the two men's need to quibble, prevaricate, hem and haw, and renege on previously conveyed messages. The warmer the process, the worse the hemming and hawing, as their most recent declarations testify.

It is possible that they have been blessed with the historic mission of leading the Israelis to an era of peace and normalcy. The question is why they insist on leading us by the nose.

Last week Likud Knesset Member Dan Meridor disclosed the minutes of a scandalous conversation Peres had had with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to negotiations on elections in the territories. The problem was the census to be held in East Jerusalem prior to the elections. Peres agreed that the Palestinians should conduct the census by themselves. He demanded, however, that they announce that they are conducting the census under the aegis of the [Israeli] Central Bureau of Statistics. Why? "In case a query is made in the Knesset," Peres said.

'Urayqat "was absolutely baffled," according to the minutes. "I don't care what Peres says in the Knesset," he said. "I am not going to lie."

On Friday, a day after the Bet Berl speech, Peres left for Casablanca. On Saturday night, an Arab summit was supposed to be held in Rabat protesting the expropriation of East Jerusalem land. The suspension of the expropriation obviated the summit, following which Peres hastened to fill the ensuing vacuum: He was going to organize a counter-summit on the very same day, in the very same place.

Rabin did not like the haste. The cumulative wisdom acquired during the peace process says that image-enhancing meetings with Arab leaders — most notably with 'Arafat — do not enhance the image, but do increase the price, which did not stop Rabin from contributing to the general confusion by adding a pronouncement of his own that same evening. Rabin granted an interview to Yisra'el Segal from Channel 1. He spoke of the token evacuation of one settlement on the Golan Heights. He did not explain whether the evacuation would be within the framework of a comprehensive arrangement, whether it would follow a referendum, whether he was referring to a civilian settlement or a Nahal Brigade presettlement. And above all: What use is mentioning the evacuation of one settlement when Rabin and everyone in his audience know that the debate is really about the evacuation of the entire Golan Heights.

And Peres did not hold his tongue in Casablanca either. He told YEDI'OT AHARONOT reporter Shim'on Schiffer, who arrived there, what he had said to King Hassan. Peres and Schiffer left Peres' villa in Tamra together and walked over to Andrey Azulay's villa nearby. Schiffer made notes. "I told the king that our agreement with the Syrians will not make us look better. We will benefit historically but lose politically. Any agreement we reach with the Syrians has to be the ultimate, the last one.

"I told the king that all our decisions regarding the process are moral as well as political. We do not want to rule over another nation. We do not want to live on Arab land."

Schiffer wanted to know what the king had understood. Is the Golan Syrian land?

Peres: "It is their land."

The next day Peres panicked at the Israeli headlines and issued a quibbling semi-denial. It is doubtful that anyone bought it. Israelis certainly did not. There is a doubt about al-Asad.

Peacemaking is naturally a complex process which requires a certain quackish quality. Some declarations are designed to lure the other side. Some counter-declarations create maneuvering space for our own side. Up to a certain limit, this is a necessary part of the game. The question is whom Peres and Rabin are conning: the Arabs, the Knesset, public opinion, or themselves. And perhaps with all this conning, they are themselves unable to tell the dove from the bird's droppings.

Rabin Believes 1996 Last Year for Full U.S. Aid

TA3105144095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 May 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes the 1996 fiscal year is likely to be the last one in which Israel receives the full $1.2 billion in U.S. civilian aid, an official in the Prime Minister's Office told THE JERUSALEM POST last night.

Speaking after the premier met with seven visiting Democratic congressmen, the official said, "The U.S. is turning inward towards more domestic needs and away from foreign needs. The prime minister hopes the full amount of civilian aid is approved by Congress for this upcoming year, as this has been promised both by the Clinton Administration and leaders of Congress.

"However, he does not expect full funding of the civilian aid in the year after that," the official said.

"There is a correlation between the amount of assistance the U.S. provides to the region and its level of influence here. We are especially concerned now that general U.S. cuts towards the region could influence the peace process," the official added.

The premier's new thinking has emerged as a result of his trip to the U.S. earlier this month, where he was confronted with the new budget-cutting mood in Congress.

It remains unclear how much Rabin believes the cuts to Israel will total, and whether there will be a multi-year phase-out of the civilian aid.

As it stands now, Israel returns over $1 billion of the $1.2 billion in civilian aid in the form of repayment for outstanding U.S. governmental and commercial loans. Israel has been receiving $1.2b. in civilian aid and an additional $1.8b. in military aid from the U.S. since 1986.

Some Israelis have wondered whether the budget-cutting mood in the U.S. dims the prospects of receiving a significant U.S. military package that would offset the risks in a potential Golan withdrawal.

Israel has tentatively withdrawn an arms list submitted by senior military officials last year. There were rumors that Israel would seek $5b. in weapons, but this has been considered wildly unrealistic given the current budgetary environment.

The prime minister has also been urging members of Congress not to cut off the estimated $100 million in U.S. assistance to the PLO next month.

Rabin has said that such a halt in aid would hurt the peace process, as it would undermine PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's authority. He has also hinted that it could lead to an upsurge in terror.

Rabin met earlier this week with the visiting professional staff of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

However, when asked to react last night about possible future cuts, AIPAC executive director Neal Sher said, "Foreign aid is a year-to-year struggle. We are going to continue to urge full funding requests for Israel this year and next year."

Under the current Republican-led House of Representatives budget resolution for the fiscal year that begins this October, U.S. foreign aid worldwide has been cut from the $18.2b. advocated by the Clinton Administration to $16.4b.

Members of the Clinton Administration were hoping AIPAC would support their foreign aid request instead of that of the Republicans, but Sher defended the move.

"We have always sought as much foreign aid as possible for the world, but the figures were not going up due to the reality of budget-cutting," he said.

It should be noted that the current House bill maintains the current level of $3b. for Israel and $2.1b. for Egypt. Instead, the bill cut Third World development assistance programs, which have never been popular with Republicans.

While Rabin is sanguine about the upcoming year's budget, pro- Israel Jewish leaders are taking nothing for granted, noting that the foreign aid bill has yet to be finalized and still faces several hurdles ahead, including a Senate vote.

There are unconfirmed reports that Damascus has sought economic aid from the U.S. as part of an accord with Israel, but leading members of Congress have said the prospects of such aid being given look very poor.

Rabin has constantly stressed to visiting congressmen and other visitors that Arab parties must receive a peace dividend for making peace with Israel.

For example, despite Rabin's best personal efforts, Israel does not know if $275 million in U.S. debt relief to Jordan will be approved this year.

Professor: Israeli Arab Intifadah Could Follow Peace

TA3105144895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 May 95 p 3

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A successful peace treaty with the PLO could lead Israeli Arabs to begin their own intifadah if the discrimination they accepted as the price of hostilities is not treated, a professor of Arab studies said yesterday.

Tel Aviv University Arabist Prof. Sha'ul Mish'al, who has written extensively about the PLO, made the remarks at an introductory address by members of the new Institute for Israeli Arab Studies, sponsored by the Government Press Office.

"I am not excluding the possibility of different forms of intifadah, civil disobedience, passive or active," he said in meetings with diplomats and journalists.

Mish'al said he was more optimistic about the peace process with the PLO than about relations between Israeli-Palestinians and Israel. The peace process has raised the expectations of Israeli Arabs, who make up 18 percent of the population, but economic development of the Arab sector, and even integration into the broader Israeli economy, will not be enough, he said.

Meanwhile, at a seminar on Israeli Arab education, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said yesterday that one of his main priorities is to raise Arab educational attainments to the level of Jews. The lack of educational attainment is considered a real barrier to equality with the Jews.

"The problem is not more teaching hours. We have added hundreds. The problem is to overhaul education programs and bring in excellent teachers. There is a shortage of technical schools."

He said a central problem is that parents take children out of school at 15 when they should stay until 18.

Dr. Yitzhaq Schnell, a geographer at Tel Aviv University, noted that Israeli Arabs take their politically imposed role as Israeli citizens almost as seriously as their natural Palestinian identity.

Until now they maintained a strict separation between moral support of the Palestinians' intifadah across the Green Line and their own participation in the Palestinian intifadah. "They thought Palestinians had a right to violence because they were not part of a democratic political system while Israeli Arabs did not have the moral right because they were part of a democratic system."

IDF Redeployment Date Said Rescheduled for 1 Nov

TA3105183295 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 May 95

[Studio talk between anchor Ya'aqov Eylon and Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Eylon] I understand there is a new target date for IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment and the exit from city centers.

[Daniyel] There is indeed a new date, and it is cited in a document submitted by the IDF to the Knesset Finance Committee which is discussing the large allocations the IDF needs to complete the construction of 11 or more roads and the defense works around settlements. All this will take a long time, and that is why the said document refers to the date in the following terms: The evacuation of headquarters is to take place no later than 1 November. In IDF lingo, this means no earlier than 1 November.

[Eylon] Roni, we reported yesterday that the separation plan has been shelved. Can you explain why the plan was shelved?

[Daniyel] The separation plan was developed in parallel with the IDF redeployment plan. Now, although the separation concept was received with great enthusiasm, the two plans are financially at odds with each other. That was why the prime minister recently decided to shelve it, to use several aides' term, until after the IDF redeployment. In practical terms, it means a very extended postponement, possibly a recall.

Further on Rescheduling Redeployment Date

TA0106091695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jun 95 pp A1, A12

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Plans recently drafted by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] cite 1 November as the target date for beginning the pullout of IDF troops from the center of towns in the West Bank. A senior officer told HA'ARETZ that this date is based on the working premise that the IDF will not be able to complete the preparations for its redeployment earlier than that.

One of the documents recently compiled by the General Staff notes that the evacuation of headquarters will not begin before 1 November, following the completion of the negotiations with the Palestinians scheduled for 1 July. It further transpires from the current document that the IDF has not yet begun building the main traffic arteries, despite an earlier document on the issue which detailed all the roads that the IDF and the defense establishment intend to build.

In a closed-door session of the Knesset Finance Committee two days ago, defense and IDF sources said that the redeployment will necessitate paving a total of 110 km of road and that paving 1 km of road takes about a month.

It transpires from the briefing of the IDF officers to the committee that not only has the IDF not yet finished formulating its redeployment plan, but that some IDF quarters are now proposing not to accept an advance payment of 300 million shekels from the Finance Ministry to finance the redeployment.

The Knesset Finance Committee has not yet approved the advance payment, and IDF sources now say the army is demanding more money for the redeployment. According to senior army officers, even if Israel and the Palestinians formulate an agreement by 1 July, it will take at least four months to prepare for the evacuation; namely, the redeployment will not begin before 1 November. It has been learned that Deputy Chief of Staff Matan Vilna'i also cited this date for the beginning of the redeployment.

The Planning and Logistics Branches have completed most of their redeployment plans, which in the first stage consist of paving traffic arteries and access roads to the new IDF headquarters. As HA'ARETZ reported last week, the IDF intends to expropriate hundreds of dunams of land in the West Bank to build roads, a process that will take a long time.

It now turns out that the plan to pull IDF troops from Janin first is not all that certain either. According to the IDF's current plan, intentions persist to evacuate three training bases in the West Bank, but at this point no date has been set for the move.

IDF sources say that the security measures (broad traffic arteries, bypass roads, lookout posts, etc.) should be as spread-out as possible to provide protection to the settlements and Israeli vehicles driving on the roads. According to military sources, the IDF, Shin Bet, and Israel Police have joint plans which will be executed as soon as the IDF redeploys.

According to IDF officers, the separation plan between Israel and the Palestinians will be executed despite the fact that it has been put off until after the redeployment. Police Minister Moshe Shahal's media adviser also said that the plan had been approved by the government and would be executed after the redeployment. [passage omitted]

Hamas Squad Uncovered in Bethlehem Area; 30 Detained

TA3105180695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] In recent days the Shin Bet uncovered a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squad that planned to kidnap soldiers in Jerusalem and to attack IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers in the Bethlehem District.

Our Army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that about 30 squad members — all from the Bethlehem District — were detained. They are suspected of perpetrating attacks, such as hurling Molotov cocktails and homemade bombs, in which civilians and soldiers were injured.

Baraq To Become Cabinet Minister by 2 Aug

TA2805073695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former Army Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq is to become a cabinet minister during the current Knesset's summer term, which ends on 2 August. The Prime Minister's Office says that Yitzhaq Rabin and Baraq reached an agreement on the issue in a meeting last night. Baraq will also be a member of the inner cabinet on security and diplomatic affairs. Rabin and the former army chief are to meet again within the next two weeks to finalize details.

Qol Yisra'el's reporter says with Baraq joining the cabinet, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin would become a minister as well, taking over the Economics and Planning portfolio. Shim'on Shetrit, who currently holds that position, would remain only with the other ministry he now heads, Religious Affairs.

Interior Ministry Expels 2 Hamas Leaders

TA3105170695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah said in Amman today that the Jordanian Ministry of Interior has issued orders to two Hamas leaders to leave Jordanian soil by tomorrow, Thursday. Jordanian officials have refused to comment on this report.

Move Follows PLO Protest

JN3105210195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 May 95

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian authorities have ordered two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] officials to leave the country tomorrow, Thursday. These authorities have also banned them and members of their families from entering the country. The two officials are Musa Abu-Marzuq who holds a Yemeni passport, and 'Imad al-'Alami, who holds a Moroccan passport. They formerly resided in Jordan irregularly. However, their families lived in Amman. The Jordanian authorities set the end of the scholastic year as a deadline for these families' residence in the country.

This decision was made following the PLO's protest against the Hamas movement's activities in Jordan. Hamas is not officially recognized by Jordan.

King Husayn has several times stressed that Jordan recognizes the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Paper Laments Decision

JN3105175495 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 30 May-5 Jun 95 p 1

[Editorial: "On the Infamous Decision To Deport Hamas Strugglers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are unable to understand the strange insistence of our authorities and decisionmakers on the departure of two leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. The leaders are Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq and Engineer 'Imad al-'Alami. The decision can only be viewed within the context of infamous foreign pressures and warnings, which have recently been behind many decisions.

The decision, which will go into effect within days by deporting the heroic strugglers from Jordan, reflects the extent of confusion and lack of vision on the part of the decisionmakers. This worthless decision is neither a Jordanian decision nor a nationalist one. It is not a Jordanian decision because it is made by remote control and then attributed to all Jordanians, with all its serious and adverse consequences. Nor is it a nationalist decision, since it tarnishes the true image of the homeland, which has always been a safe haven for strugglers and a home for honorable people. This decision explicitly asks the homeland to forsake its own people and fight itself. The decision also does not take into consideration Jordan's interests and losses; it is made at the expense of Jordan and the Jordanians.

It is portentous that Amman should open its doors to the Jews, who are killers and usurpers, and receive Rabin and Peres who walk safely in its streets, while it has no place for two strugglers, of which our country is in need. As the strugglers of Hamas pack up to leave for another place in this vast universe, Amman looks pale and shy. Amman has been forced, against its will and against the will of its sons — who shall continue to be loyal to virtue and struggle — to join the places from where honest strugglers are deported. Amman says, in an apologetic and sad tone: Amman shall remain the way you know it, the capital of support, loyalty, and steadfastness. While bidding farewell to the convoys of deportees, Amman declares that it is the only loser as a result of your departure. Amman shall cherish its genuine love for its noblest guests, who entered every Jordanian house and occupied a distinguished place in their hearts and souls. Those guests have defended the honor of the nation, the dignity of its people, and the chastity of its shrines. Their struggle has bestowed upon them a badge of honor to represent their people and nation. This badge was not conferred upon them by lame official Arab decisions. They also did not claim this honor, as done by the person who has put himself and his people in one corner with the Zionist enemy, under the pretext that he is the sole and legitimate representative. The actions of this person have turned him into a comedian or buffoon, or what is even much worse.

To those who are departing for our hearts: With you, our souls soar. To those who are defending our Jerusalem and al-Aqsa Mosque: Forgive us for this infamous decision, of which we are absolved.

King Urges Nation To Confront All 'Challenges'

JN3105190295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn visited the Prime Ministry this afternoon and met with His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir at his office.

The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, Royal Hashemite Court chief; 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and minister of education; and Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and minister of information.

His majesty then chaired part of the Council of Ministers meeting. He expressed confidence in, and appreciation for the good and constant efforts made by the Council of Ministers to prepare for implementing the plans and programs that strengthen national achievements, and hoped that strong Jordan will remain a model and example for all, and that it will remain capable of confronting all challenges and assuming its role within its Arab nation.

His majesty stressed adherence to the interests of Jordan and the nation, and to the defense of Arab human rights and the right of the Arab citizen to defend his identity and his right to restore his status and ensure his future.

His majesty added that we have to confront all attempts aimed to block this country's confident march so that the homeland will remain capable of confronting all challenges and will not be obstructed by the attempts to undermine its role and encroach on its sacrifices that were offered for the sake of a better future for its generations and its nation.

Press on Decision To Ban Anti-Peace Conference

Daily Questions Logic of Move

JN0106092395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Jun 95 p 28

[From the "Standpoint" column by Hamadah Fara'inah: "The Cancellation of the Opposition Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Was it wise to cancel the Jordanian conference for protecting the homeland and confronting normalization? Did this cancellation serve the national interest? Have things reached the level of fearing that our people could be impressed by the words, expressions, or positions contained in the final statement of this conference?

Is the constitutional right designed only to serve the government's interest without the opposition benefiting from it? The opposition factions now have a known and declared position before the whole world. This position is a source of strength for us and adds respect and prestige to our political positions on the grounds that such positions are an interpretation that more precisely reflects the supreme national interest.

The presence of the opposition does not harm the government or our people. On the contrary, the opposition is a national and security necessity. This is because the presence of a declared and legitimate opposition, which abides by the law, will prevent resorting to adventurous and extremist methods and means.

As long as law and order permit opposition, it will be rejected and denounced if some people resort to nondemocratic ways and means. Hence, the government should have taken this element into account. Moreover, the right of expression is a legal and constitutional right. It is the same right that allows the government to act, interpret things, reach political agreements, and sign treaties with other states and organizations.

The decision to cancel the popular conference for protecting the homeland and confronting the normalization has created an atmosphere we do not need and has given the opposition strength it does not have.

Columnist Views 'Serious Mistake'

JN3105205195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 31 May 95 p 18

[From the "Highlights" column by Fahd al-Fank: "Banning the Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Probably the government was wrong when it reconsidered its calculations and decided on 18 May to back down from its previous decision and to approve the convening of the popular conference under the slogan of "Defending the Homeland and Resisting Normalization." However, the government made a greater and more serious mistake when it suddenly decided to ban the conference a few hours before it was scheduled to open.

We thought the government had received information that there would be disturbances and confrontations at the conference that would undermine security, so the decision to ban it was a precautionary measure. However, it did not cite this as a reason for banning the conference, but concentrated on the final statement of the conference that has been prepared in advance, and said the statement harms Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

These pretexts are weak because final statements or their drafts are usually prepared in advance. This is because it is impractical for hundreds of participants to discuss and draft the statement at the conference. All that is required from them is to listen to fiery speeches, then to applaud and shout, and finally to endorse the final statement as it is.

It is not necessary for a final statement to be scientific, objective, and fair to Jordan or others. The statement can be demagogic and accusative, but if this is the case it will harm the conferees themselves and not the government which has the means to respond.

Unfortunately, the government is the party that has rescued the conference and rendered it successful through banning it and appearing in a weak position toward the conference. There have been internal differences between the parties on the drafting of the final statement. Six parties expressed objection to the statement, and the organizers' response was that the decision on this would be made at the conference. This means that the conference could have exploded from within. Not more than 500 people would have attended the conference. This would have proved that those who oppose the treaty and normalization in all governorates are not more than 500 individuals out of 4 million. This is pointless, because we know that the number of rejectionists is much more than this.

The harmony among those who called for the conference was not strong, the number of attendees was not large, and the chances of the conference's success were limited. The decision to ban the conference was made in front of international mass media in conflict with the Jordanians' constitutional right to hold meetings. This gave Jordan's opponents a new pretext to prove their spiteful allegation that democracy is moving backward.

Daily Says Government Lacks Confidence

JN3105201695 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 30 May-5 Jun 95 p 3

[Report by Samih al-Ma'ayitah]

[FBIS Translated Text] It appears that the government is unable to deal with others in a democratic and patient way. It also appears that it is still suffering from lack of confidence in itself and in others, particularly in the vigor of its political trend regarding its treaty with the Zionist enemy. This psychological state of affairs was behind scores of oppressive measures which the government has taken over the past months against the opposition and its right to express its opinion. Among these is the story of the Jordanian popular conference for Defending the Homeland and Resisting Normalization. The conference was the subject of a lengthy dialogue between the government and the opposition parties, which ended with the government decision to allow the convening of the conference on Monday 29 May in a private hall near the University of Jordan. So, what happened yesterday morning?

At approximately 0900, hundreds of conference members headed for the conference hall only to be informed of the government's decision to cancel the conference because it conflicted with the security and stability of the country.

Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the conference and secretary general of the Islamic Action Front, announced that at 0400 in the morning, he was informed by the Amman governor of the prime minister's decision to cancel the conference. As a result, several contacts were held with the prime minister and the secretaries general of the parties. The secretaries general agreed to postpone the conference and to try to convene it as soon as possible.

Hundreds of members, as well as representatives of local and international press and news agencies, were present at the door of the hall, and expressed astonishment at the decision. Meanwhile, some security men became angry with the audience. This led to an unjustified attack against Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Sukkar, assistant secretary general of the Engineers Association and head of the al-Zarqa' branch of the Islamic Action Front. Many security men took part in the brutal attack.

Muhammad Karim al-Nahar, member of the Political Bureau of the Pan-Arab Action Front; and student Ahmad al-Sharqawi, head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Science and Technology Students Union, were also beaten. The security men confiscated the latter's camera, damaged the film inside, tore his shirt, and beat him.

Media men were also beaten. The CNN and AP representatives, as well as several unidentified citizens, were also beaten.

Amman Governor Tal'at al-Nawayisah arrived at the scene, and I asked him why the government had canceled its previous decision. He said: "The parties did not abide by the their agreement with the prime minister." When I asked him about this agreement, he said: "The prime minister and the parties know the agreement."

I asked Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan about the things agreed on with the prime minister. He said that the agreement with the prime minister stipulated that the law would not be violated, that the opposition had the right to express its views, and that there would be no chaos at the conference. He added that the Preparatory Committee asked the governor to inform it of all the things they needed to comply with.

In its efforts to justify the cancellation of the conference, the government said that the final statement of the conference harms Jordan and compromises its security and stability. Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan deemed it strange that the government should cancel the convocation of the conference because of the draft final statement, which had yet to be debated and endorsed by the conferees.

Dr. al-Farhan added: It is only natural that the conference would condemn the normalization of ties with the

Zionist enemy, because this was the purpose of the conference in the first place. It is also natural for the conference to oppose the treaty with the Zionist enemy; and this neither compromises Jordan's security, nor constitutes a violation of law. It is only natural for us to air dissenting views. Nevertheless, this does not constitute a violation of the law, Dr. al-Farhan maintained.

The government's decision has rendered a free-of-charge service to the opposition. Banning the conference and the attacks on people have only whetted the appetite of the local and international media to learn of the details of the incident and sound out the views of the opposition, as manifested in the rush of tens of reporters to the premises of the Islamic Action Front to attend a news conference held there on the government's move.

Had the conference convened, the coverage of it would have been limited. But now that the conference has been banned, interest in the event is enormous, not to mention the disrepute into which the government has fallen. The decision to ban the conference cannot be described as wise and intelligent.

We were not surprised by the executive authority's decision to ban the conference. For since this authority entered the tunnel of negotiations, and with each and every progress registered in the course of the negotiations with the Zionist enemy, and with the improvement and enhancement of the friendly and strong ties with this enemy, there has been a proportionate economic and political suppression and harassment of Jordanian citizens. Especially targeted by this economic and political harassment have been the opposition forces, parties, and figures, who are increasingly becoming victims of suppression by the authority in an attempt to prevent them from airing their views on crucial issues.

This repressive and dictatorial mind-set unmasks the government's political line. This also shows that the government believes in its heart of hearts that citizens are opposed to the treaty and its consequences. Nonetheless, this weakness on the part of the executive authority does not give it the right to make citizens pay the price twice: First when it acted on their behalf by signing a treaty that sanctions normalization, and then by harassing and muzzling them in violation of their constitutional rights.

Buwayz on 'Benefiting' From Syrian-Israeli Progress

NC3105124495 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that the Syrian-Israeli talks in the past few months have led to some points regarding the security arrangements, adding that these points need an understanding to be put into effect.

He noted that if there is goodwill, these ideas could develop into practical measures next month. He added: I believe that once a thorough understanding is reached on this issue, there is no reason why the Lebanese track cannot move forward, benefiting from these frameworks. Buwayz added: What is obvious is that Israel has refused to discuss Resolution 425 and postponed the negotiations with the Lebanese side. Thus far, Lebanon has not been offered an actual Israeli withdrawal in accordance with the Lebanese requirements based on Resolution 425.

Buwayz: Israel Rejects Proposal To Discuss Withdrawal

NC3105151895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that Lebanon unequivocally proposed to Israel to negotiate on implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, but Israel refused to discuss this resolution and postponed the discussions until the time of negotiations on withdrawal and a peace agreement. At a news conference today, he stressed that the Israeli side did not actually put forward the issue of withdrawal in accordance with the Lebanese requirements, which are based on Security Council Resolution 425.

Minister Buwayz stressed that Lebanon has no objection to discussing security arrangements with Israel if they are within the context of Resolution 425.

Hizballah on U.S. Iran Embargo, 'Balance of Power'

JN2905183395 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 29 May-4 Jun 95 pp 14-15

[Interview with Hizballah Assistant Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim by Faysal Jallul; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Jallul] Do you think the U.S. trade embargo against Iran will affect the balance of power within Hizballah?

[Qasim] The U.S. embargo against Iran has nothing to do with Hizballah. Hizballah's affairs are linked to its stands, performance, and resistance in Lebanon. The talk about balances of power is irrelevant. This is because the integration between Hizballah's political, cultural, social, militant performance on the one hand, and its action in Lebanon and its members' relations with their leadership on the other, do not allow for the emergence of currents and powers, but for integrated action. The effects of this action can be seen clearly through our organizational and popular activities.

[Jallul] Do you agree that the viewpoint of Shaykh Subhi al- Tufayli represents the hardliners while Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah represents the moderate current? Which of the two currents do you believe will triumph during the party's general congress?

[Qasim] We reject this classification. There is only one current for all sides in the party in accordance with the general political framework, which is based on a strategic viewpoint and on the real state of affairs which has been approved by all the previous general congresses. Therefore, there is no individual action outside this framework. Nothing will change in the political framework. The party's members and leadership are satisfied with the party's performance. Our decisions are made collectively, and everyone abides by them.

[Jallul] Hizballah, Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], and Islamic Jihad are the only parties that still insist on fighting against Israel. Do these parties have a unified stand toward the conflict with Israel?

[Qasim] We can say that there are common denominators, for we are all Muslims. We also believe that armed resistance is the only sound way to liberate the land. However, they have a their own special arena, and we have our own special arena. Therefore, it is natural that we, in Lebanon, take initiatives and adopt stands that differ from theirs and vise versa. However, we agree on common issues. There are operations that are named after their martyrs, and they carry out operations named after our martyrs. The reason is that we believe that there should be harmony among the Islamic movements as long as they have common and unified viewpoints. When we carry out an operation that harms Israel, we would like our brothers in Palestine to feel that this effort of the general action to liberate the land is a gift for one of their martyrs. This is an expression of our sympathy with them. They also reply with the same logic. This proves the practical unity of struggle, instead of talking theoretically about unity.

[Jallul] You consider your resistance against Israel a strategy, but the balance of power in the Middle East will not be in your favor during the next stage. Do you have the means to change the balance of power? Are you prepared for the upcoming developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Qasim] I prefer to correct the question. The assumption that the region will witness a sort of solution and the emphasis that the steps will go ahead in the direction the others want are merely possibilities. We are facing two possibilities. The settlement may make progress and we have to face this progress. By this we can realize part of our objectives. As for the balance of power, if we want accuracy, we must say that it is not in our favor thus far. I mean here the military aspect, because our strength is that of a resistance movement, while the strength of the others is one of states, regimes, and international support. In spite of this, we will try to go ahead depending on almighty God, the soundness of our logic and ideas, the popular response toward us and the liberation of the land, and the sacrificial spirit we have in Islam.

We depend on all of this in order to reduce the impact of the problem of the balance of power. We have managed to realize a small part. At present there is a balance of terror—if the expression is true—between ourselves and the Israeli enemy. This was not the case in the past, especially after the Israeli invasion when frustration almost prevailed, but the Islamic resistance succeeded in changing the morale and the situation and went ahead in difficult circumstances. I think that there will be difficult circumstances in the future, but the future will also bring about possibilities and circumstances that enable us to deal with it. We have studies and concepts on this subject and how to deal with it, but to talk now about the future in detail reveals plans that we do not want to expose. At the appropriate time, it will become clear to all that our plans are for various stages. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Views Islamists in Government, Support

MM3105080495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 May 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Fadlallah: No Problem With Islamists Joining Government in Lebanon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut — AL-HAYAH — Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that "the United States is in a state of limbo in relation to the Arab-Israeli question." He stressed that he sees "no legitimate problem with the Islamists joining the government in Lebanon when the subjective circumstances for that are available."

At a seminar in al-Hirmil, Fadlallah said that "there is no U.S. Middle Eastern policy. There is a Jewish policy implemented by the United States. You saw how the U.S. President stood up at the AIPAC [American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee] conference to say that he was honored to be the first U.S. president to attend the Jewish lobby conference and then, addressing the conference chairman, to say: You are the president of presidents. I am a new president and would like you to give me the benefit of your experience and to correct my mistakes. Was that the U.S. President or an attache at the Jewish Zionist foreign ministry?"

On "America's hand in the appointment and dismissal of officials in Lebanon," Fadlallah said: "If our people respected themselves, their decisions, their positions of support or rejection, their identity, and their relations, the United State would not be able to impose on us someone we do not want nor separate us from someone we do want. Yes, look for the United States and see its position in our minds. The point is: Are we free or are we Americanized in our minds?"

In reply to a question, he said: "I see no legitimate problem with the Islamists joining the government when some of the subjective circumstances that would make their joining the government effective for people's causes are available, but I believe that the entire political spectrum in Lebanon does not want that. According to press reports, the U.S. charge d'affaires brought a message from the U.S. State Department saying that the United States would play a negative part against Lebanon if the Islamists joined the government."

Press on Israeli Statements, Peace, Lebanese Track

JN0106085395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The New Available Opportunity and the Credibility of the Syrian Position," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Syria has dealt with, and still deals with, the peace process with much patience and steadfastness. It has thus proved that no one can drag it into something it does not want or impose on it something it does not accept.

Moreover, events have proven Syria's ability to persuade others and defend both the demands and requirements to which it clings. These demands and requirements basically stem from justice and international legitimacy and are in harmony with Syria's national and pan-Arab interest. They also serve as the basis for a real and durable peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH adds: Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's visit to Washington and the talks he held there reflect this fact and show the interest, understanding, and appreciation for Syria's special way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. The paper continues: This recent step in the difficult march of peace has added some optimism to the press reports, the political media analyses, and the statements made by world politicians on various policies.

However, AL-BA'TH says, the statements made by the Israeli rulers after announcing the framework of understanding do not call for optimism because they are contradictory. The Israeli rulers have made conflicting statements; they suggested they accepted the requirements of peace but later demanded something largely conflicting with these requirements.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The Israeli intentions toward peace are now being put to the test. If the Israeli rulers really want to make the peace process a success, they should respond to its requirements and terms. Syria has never spoken two languages, taken two positions, or adopted two policies. It implements what it says and is true to what it says. Moreover, its pledges are consistently credible and its positions are principled.

Under the headline "The Honest Position and the Comprehensive Vision," the newspaper TISHRIN says: No doubt, the great and wide interest in Syria's positions, constants, and principles are not only due to what Syrian policy stands for but are also due to the fact that Syria represents a real and definite guarantee for the pan-Arab rights.

TISHRIN adds: Since it decided to wage the battle for peace, Syria has emanated from a basic and important starting point; namely, that a just and comprehensive peace can only be achieved by regaining all rights and territories and that peace cannot be achieved through maneuvers and tricks but by giving everyone his dues.

TISHRIN continues: The comprehensive vision which Syria has had in its peace endeavors and which it has maintained in all phases of the battle for peace have proved that the whole issue is not only linked to the current Syrian national and pan-Arab interests but also to a long-term vision. From this premise, it has been impossible for anyone to circumvent the Syrian role or ignore its constants, pillars, and principles. This is because by adopting this policy, Syria represents the conscience and dignity of the Arabs.

Under the headline "The One Position," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial: Events and developments have proven that Syria and Lebanon are consistently clinging to consultations and coordination on all that concerns the peace process. This stems from the conviction of the Syrian and Lebanese leaders that the peace process is correlated and synchronized [mutalazimah] on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts and that these fronts are inseparable.

AL-THAWRAH cites President Hafiz al-Asad's remarks that Syria and Lebanon joined the peace process together, that they cling to full coordination and solidarity, and that they will continue the peace process together despite the fact that other Arab parties have accepted partial solutions.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This unified Syrian-Lebanese position stems from several important facts known by all, including the nature of the conflict and the essence of the solution that can only be a comprehensive one. The paper continues: Lebanon has confirmed on the popular and official levels that it will continue to coordinate with Syria regarding the peace process and that it rejects any attempt to single it out. Exactly like Syria, Lebanon has worked in accordance with a sincere pan-Arab vision that stems from the synchronization [talazum] of the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. This conviction is expressed both on the popular level and by the leaders of the two countries as a guarantee to regaining the rights.

Action on Security Arrangements Urged for Stability

JN3105152595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Those who follow the statements of Israeli officials, which acknowledge that the Golan is Syrian territory and should return to its people, feel optimistic that peace is at hand and that all the obstacles in its way have been removed. Despite the importance of such successive Israeli acknowledgements, they alone are insufficient. This is because peace can be achieved by actions, not words. The acknowledgements in themselves have great significance, which derives from the facts of history and geography.

However, an acknowledgement in the media is not enough for Israel to confirm its resolve to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that stems from full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. This talk, in addition to the understanding on security arrangements on the basis of equality [al-tasawi], equitability [al-takafu'], and parallelism [al-tawazi], should be translated into actions so it can be said that peace is at hand and that goodwill to achieve peace can lead to security and stability in the region.

After this long period of negotiations, contacts, and international and U.S. efforts, Israel no doubt now realizes that Syria can never accept a peace that does not return its full territory and national and pan-Arab rights. Syria can also never accept any solution or arrangements that prejudice its dignity or national sovereignty.

If the peace process has required all this time on the Syrian track to reach a framework of understanding on security arrangements, then the other aspects of the peace process — including the concept of full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and the implementation of peace and full withdrawal from southern Lebanon — could take years if Israel does not abandon the mentality of looking for gains at the expense of the Arabs, their territory, and rights, and if Israel continues to evade the requirements for peace.

Peace is in everybody's interest. Syria is serious about it, in a way that restores land and rights and secures its dignity and future. Anything other than this has nothing to do with peace and cannot endure. No doubt, an accurate implementation of the framework of understanding on security arrangements will give a steady push to the peace process on the Syrian track, which is the real key to just and comprehensive peace.

The first principle in a sound implementation of these arrangements is to draw up their features based on the 4 June lines. Syria wants a peace that restores its full territory and rights. It deems the right of its people to return to their land and property on the Golan and to live a normal life there a top priority and foremost objective. Therefore, Israel's response to the requirements for peace, primarily full withdrawal, will pave the way for peace and open the door for stability in the region.

Syria has made every possible and sincere effort to advance the peace process. It will continue to support all efforts, especially the efforts of the U.S. sponsor, to promote this process on the firm principles set forth in the Madrid conference, which can alone achieve a just and comprehensive peace. This peace will guarantee everybody's interests and security, based on justice and equality, and remove occupation, injustice, and aggression.

Paper Underlines Country's Support for Lebanon

JN3105091695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "The Syrian and Lebanese Firmness," AL-BA'TH says: Syria has shouldered and is shouldering the greatest and most important burden in the peace process to ensure that peace is just and comprehensive. This is the peace strategy of the Syrian moves. Syria considers southern Lebanon as important as the Golan Heights and the rights of the Lebanese citizens as important as those of the Syrian citizen.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Syrian commitment to support Lebanon was expressed by wise Leader Hafiz al-Asad years ago. This commitment remains the most important point in all the moves made by Syrian diplomacy regarding peace and its establishment, both in Lebanon and the entire region.

AL-BA'TH stresses that there can be no peace without comprehensiveness and that there can be no bargaining over any rights, which Syria defends and considers a pillar in the serious moves to arrive at peace. The paper adds: Anyone who tries to misinterpret this fact is mistaken. Syria, which offered sacrifices to ensure a stable Lebanon and that its people can live in security, will not squander these sacrifices and will remain a strong supporter of the Lebanese people's ambitions to security and peace.

AL-BA'TH notes that the constant consultations between the Syrian and Lebanese leaders confirm that the ties, agreement, and understanding between the two countries are very strong.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: It is clear for all those who are playing an active role in the Middle East that what has been achieved by Syria's adherence to its position is in fact a Syrian-Lebanese achievement.

Afghanistan

Taleban Warns Embassies on Planned Offensive

LD3105171395 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taleban group has warned those countries that have operational embassies in Kabul to close down their embassies very soon. According to reports reaching here, the Taleban group has warned a number of countries that have reopened their embassies in Kabul to close them down. Similarly, the group has warned other countries that are contemplating reopening their embassies to abandon the idea. The report adds: Giving this warning, the Taleban group has said it is planning a large offensive against the Kabul administration to put an end to this illegal administration.

Kabul Leaders Fail To Agree at 'Secret Meeting'

LD3105185695 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An eight-hour secret meeting of the Kabul administration leaders ended without a result. Reports reaching here from Kabul say a secret meeting of the coalition partners under the chairmanship of Rabbani, head of the Kabul administration, began at 1600 [1130 GMT] on 30 May and continued until midnight. It was attended by Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf [leader of Islamic Union of Afghanistan], Ahmad Shah Mas'ud [Kabul City Commission chairman], Yunus Qanuni, and some communist Generals During this secret meeting, talks were held about the probability of a Taleban attack on Kabul and some other issues.

General Dostam's proposals were also discussed in the meeting. Some members of the meeting suggested that besides General Dostam, talks should be held with the High Coordination Council [HCC] also. The report adds: At the beginning, their views were close, but after discussing different sides of the HCC-Taleban talks, differences emerged among them. Their views were so different from one another that they could not make a joint decision, so the meeting ended without a result.

Saudi Delegation, Rabbani Hold Farewell Meeting

LD3105205395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press office of the presidency told BAKHTAR that Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], received this afternoon for a farewell meeting at Golkhana Palace Esteemed Prince Turki al-Faysal, head of security and special envoy of Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

At this meeting, which was also attended by Esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, President Borhanoddin Rabbani expressed satisfaction at the efforts and attention of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to the government and people of Afghanistan. Esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani regarded the close links, good relations, and advantageous bilateral cooperation between the two countries as a serving the interest of the people of Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia.

Prince Turki al-Faysal, special envoy of the King of Saudi Arabia, expressed appreciation for the warm welcome extended to him and his delegation during their stay in Kabul. He wished the people of Afghanistan peace, prosperity, progress, and tranquillity.

According to another report, Esteemed Sayyaf, amir of the Ettehad-e Eslami of Afghanistan [Islamic Union of Afghanistan], met this morning Turki al-Faysal, head of Saudi security, in Baghi-e Bala Hotel.

At this meeting, attended also by Esteemed Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, acting prime minister; and Esteemed Fahim, general head of national security, talks were held on friendly relations between the people of Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, and Saudi's cooperation with the ISA.

According to another report, esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud met this morning Turki al-Faysal, head of Saudi security, at Golkhana Palace of the presidency. At this meeting, talks were held on subjects of mutual interest and emphasized the broadening and expansion of relations between the two counties.

The ISA, in honor of the Saudi delegation, released 20 Pakistani POWs who had been arrested around Kabul during the fighting between the Hezb of Golboddin Hekmatyar and the forces of the Islamic Army. The released prisoners were handed over to the guest delegation.

The delegation of Saudi Arabia, which arrived yesterday morning for a friendly visit to Kabul to meet the country's leadership authorities, left Kabul this afternoon.

At Kabul airport, the delegation was seen off by esteemed Fahim, head of national security; acting minister of communication; Esteemed Masud Khalili, special envoy of the ISA in Islamabad, and a number of the generals and officers of the Armed Forces and foreign diplomats in Kabul.

Iraq's Saddam Husayn Sends Message to Rabbani

LD2805173295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A message of congratulations has arrived in Kabul addressed to Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, from Saddam Husayn, president of Iraq, on the occasion of the arrival of the New Islamic Year. The text of the message is as follows:

On behalf of the people of Iraq and myself, I am pleased to convey to you my most warm congratulations on the occasion of the arrival of the New Islamic Year. On these auspicious days, I pray to Almighty God for your good health, for the prosperity of Afghanistan's people, establishment of peace and stability in your country, and tranquillity of all the Islamic nations.

India

Extension of Central Rule in Jammu, Kashmir

President Agrees With Extension

BK0106033995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president has given assent to the extension of central rule in Jammu and Kashmir by another six months. A senior official of the Home Ministry was specially flown to Port of Spain to get the president's signature. A resolution is likely to be introduced in Parliament today to provide for the extension beyond its expiry on the 17th of July.

Daily Lauds Move in 'Troubled State'

BK0106100095 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 May 95 p 13

[Editorial: "No other option"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government's decision to extend President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir beyond July 17 is the result of a realistic appraisal of the situation in the troubled State. While the burning down of Charar Sharif by the militants is one of the immediate causes for the Government's rethinking about the holding of elections, it could not have overlooked the opinion of the Opposition parties which were, by and large, not enthusiastic about opting for the polls at this point of time. The impression which the Chief Election Commissioner, Mr T.N. Seshan, obtained about the ground situation in the Valley during his recent visit to Srinagar could not have inspired confidence either. The Government must have also taken into account the possibility of a forced election boomeranging on its ultimate objective of restoring peace and normalcy in the State. The extension, which will be a smooth process in view of the support it enjoys among all political parties, will give the Government more time to plan a pragmatic election schedule. In any event, there is a growing feeling in administrative circles and elsewhere that the elections, whenever held, will have to be staggered, which means the Government must have more time.

It goes without saying that the successful holding of polls will be a fitting answer to the nefarious game plan of the terrorists, who had expected the destruction of the shrine of the Sufi saint to lead to violent outbreaks in Kashmir and elsewhere in the country. It will also expose their claims of speaking on behalf of the people, whose preference for an elected government to which they can relate more easily remains, unfortunately, unfulfilled. Thus, the challenge before the Government is to take all the steps necessary to build a congenial atmosphere for holding the polls. The release of political prisoners was a step in the right direction and it needs to be suitably followed up. In this context, the Government may find it necessary to think in terms of installing people who have a better understanding of the Kashmir problem and a greater political sense at the helm of the State Government. This may help it to initiate the political process. The Centre will also have to evolve a national consensus on the modalities of holding the polls. Given the awareness across the political spectrum of the sensitiveness of the Kashmir issue, it will not be difficult for the Government to bring about such a consensus. Concurrently, the drive against the militants should be stepped up in order to break the back of the insurgency.

Paper Interviews Congress Faction Spokespersons

BK3105155295 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 27 May 95 p 9

[Interview with Mr. V.N. Gadgil and Mrs. Sheila Dixit, Congress faction spokespersons, by Rasheed Kidwai and Sheela Reddy; place and date not given — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress rebels, after making a break with the parent party, are in turn facing a rebellion from within their ranks. But even as they struggle to keep the disparate group together, they are launching an aggressive operation to reorganise the party and hijack its symbol and name for their own. Rasheed Kidwai and Sheela Reddy spoke to the spokespersons of the two sides: Mr V.N. Gadgil and Mrs Sheila Dixit, to find out how they are handling the crisis.

There can't be 11 captains in a team: Interview with Mr V N Gadgil

Q: AFTER THE MAY 19 SPLIT, DO YOU THINK THAT UNITY IN THE PARTY IS STILL A POSSIBILITY?

A: Yes, and it would be welcomed by the Congress rank and file. The Prime Minister Mr P.V Narasimha Rao, has himself said that he is open for discussions after the Parliament session provided there are no preconditions. But I think, unity talks should be held within certain parameters. Those who walked away from the party must accept the leadership of Mr Rao and express regrets over what has happened.

Q: THE REBEL CAMP CLAIMS THAT THEY REPRESENT THE "REAL" CONGRESS. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ON IT?

A: If you collect a crowd of 20,000 persons and declare that so and so is the Congress president, it is totally unconstitutional. There is a provision in the party constitution that 20 per cent of AICC [All India Congress Committee] members can requisition a meeting. If they had done it, it would have got constitutional validity and political legitimacy. Today there are 358 Congress MPs and 900-odd AICC members. Barring eight or 10 MPs none attended that rally. There were about 50 AICC members in their convention. The overwhelming majority is with Mr Rao and ours is the real Congress. According to our records, there are more than 22 million ordinary workers, 1.6 million active members and 509 district Congress committees in the country. You see it is a huge body and one cannot stake claim by organising a convention of 20,000 persons.

Q: THE REBELS ARE SAYING THAT THE TERM OF THE AICC HAD LAPSED IN APRIL 1994 AND THEY HAVE MERELY FILLED A VACANCY BY ELECTING MR TIWARI.

A: The term of the AICC never lapses. It continues till the next organisational elections are held. During Mrs Indira Gandhi and Mr Rajiv Gandhi's time there were no organisational polls form 1972 to 1992. During that time, nobody raised any objection. Even Mr Arjun Singh accepted that the AICC continued to function.

Q: THE REBELS HAVE MOVED THE ELECTION COMMISSION OVER THE PARTY SYMBOL. WHAT WOULD BE YOUR PARTY'S STRATEGY?.

A: We are collecting signatures of AICC members and Congress MPs and we are confident that more than 95 per cent of party MPs and AICC members are with us. Moreover, the legal experts tell me that under para five of the election rules and orders, Election Commission will not freeze the symbol and continue to allot the hand symbol to the Congress headed by Mr Rao.

Q: THE TIWARI-ARJUN GROUP IS SAYING THAT THEY REPRESENT CONGRESS (INDIRA) AS THE WORD 'I' WAS DROPPED.

A: The word "I" was never dropped from the Congress party. In 1978 after the split the matter went to the election commission and the commission recognised the Congress headed by Mrs Indira Gandhi as a national party and allotted the hand symbol. In 1980 the election commission declared that the Congress headed by Mrs Gandhi can function under the name and style of Indian National Congress. We still call ourselves Congress (I). As far as the law is concerned, we are the inheritors of the Congress that was led by Mrs Gandhi.

Q: WAS THERE ANY MOVE TO DROP THE WORD 'I' AT THE SURAJKUND AICC MEET?

A: No there was no such move or even a resolution. Such reports are baseless.

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE SPLIT?

A: Politically, the impact will be marginal at best. Except for Uttar Pradesh and partially in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, there has been no impact at all. None of the PCC [Pradesh Congress Committee] chiefs have gone to their side.

Q: IS THERE A NEED TO FORMULATE A STRATEGY TO COUNTER THE REBEL CONGRESSMEN?

A: No; No strategy is needed, Cracks are appearing in their group. Irony is that those who accused the Congress high command of violating the party constitution, violated, in their very first meeting, the constitution by appointing a 25-member working committee and a working president. There are no such provisions in the party constitution.

Q: IN 1991, WHEN MR RAO BECAME PARTY CHIEF, HE HAD TALKED ABOUT COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP. MR ARJUN SINGH AND MR TIWARI COMPLAINED THAT IT WAS NEVER PRACTISED. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THAT?

A: I do not know if such a thing was talked about at that time because I was busy with the Lok Sabha polls. Personally, I do not believe in the concept of collective leadership. I would call such a thing as "collective unwisdom" In a democratic set-up decisions have to taken by the leader. The leader has to be one. You can not have 11 captains in a cricket team.

Q: MR GADGIL WHY IS THE LEADERSHIP SHYING AWAY FORM ACTION AGAINST PARTY MPS WHO HAVE JOINED HANDS WITH THE REBELS?

A: Action will be taken at the appropriate time. Some MPs who had attended their meeting are said to be doing rethink. Some of them want to come back to us. If you look at the history of the Congress, you will notice that nobody has survived by forming separate groups. Mr Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Acharya Kirplani, Mr Y.B. Chavan, Mr S.B. Chavan, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Mr A.R. Antulay and Mr Chenna Reddy went out but they all came back.

'The Congressmen want Sonia to lead': Interview with Mrs Sheila Dixit

Q: DO YOU THINK THERE IS STILL SCOPE FOR A RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES?

A: We do not rule out the possibility. But the issues raised by us have to be considered.

Q: DO YOU THINK THE RECENT PROTESTS BY SENIOR LEADERS WITHIN YOUR GROUP HAS PRECIPITATED A CRISIS EVEN BEFORE YOU GOT OFF THE GROUND?

A: Well I would not call it a crisis. Such a big event has taken place, with the workers actually taking a decision and establishing democracy within the party. I would call this a teething problem, not a crisis. They (the persons who are unhappy) are senior people, very respected people, who have been involved in this movement since the Suraj Kund session. I think that there is an attempt to sabotage our movement and minor events are being blown out of proportion. Take R. Prabhu for instance. He is very much with us, but stories are being floated about him leaving us.

Q: YOU THINK THAT THE COMING TOGETHER OF MR NARAIN DUTT TIWARI AND MR ARJUN SINGH IS BASED ON POLITICAL CONVENIENCE RATHER THAN IDEOLOGY.

A: No. Mr Tiwari has all along been toeing the Congress line of secularism and socialism. There are no differences among them.

Q: YOU HAVE BEEN CLAIMING THAT THE MAY 19 CONVENTION WAS A GRAND SUCCESS, BUT HAVE NOT YET RELEASED A LIST OF ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE AND PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING.

A: You see there was a huge crowd of anything between 50,000 to 80,000 people. Then there was a problem because they were scattered in different halls and outside as well. As a result we couldn't get an accurate figure but we have asked our state units to prepare the lists.

Q: YOUR GROUP IS STAKING A CLAIM ON THE SYMBOL AND THE NAME OF THE CONGRESS. HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO GO ABOUT ACHIEVING IT?

A: We are the rightful owners of the symbol. However, the decision has to be taken by the Election Commission. We have constituted a legal team to go into this. But speaking on a political and emotional level. I can say that we are entitled to the symbol because we are the Indian National Congress (I). The other side has dropped the (I) from their name. Moreover there have been no organisational polls and the term of the AICC expired long back. We are planning to launch a membership drive and hold organisational polls from July 15. The important thing is we reflect the real aspirations of the Congress workers, and their demand for change.

Q: WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS OF THE CONGRESS IN THE COMING POLLS?

A: Well I am very confident about the prospects of that Congress which represents the aspirations of the people. We have to win the confidence of the minorities. Then there is the fact that our economic policies have to reach out and benefit the poor. Also there is the question of justice: People are wondering if the government cannot book the murderers of Rajiv Gandhi, how can there be justice for the ordinary citizen? Why is the government ambivalent on this? Is it hiding some facts or maybe shielding some personalities?

Q: WHY IS THAT MORE CONGRESS MPs ARE NOT FORTHCOMING ABOUT JOINING YOUR GROUP?

A: The Congress party does not exist in Parliament or state Assemblies alone. The MPs and MLAs [members of legislative assembly] derive strength from the grassroot workers who are with us and want a change. In a democracy of numbers, we have little to offer in terms of power or patronage. The only thing that we are hoping will lure them to our side is our ideology and agenda.

Q: WOULD YOU CONSIDER AN ALLIANCE WITH ANY OTHER PARTY?

A: Some sort of relationship with like minded parties cannot be ruled out.

Q: WOULD BOFORS STAND IN THE WAY OF ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL FRONT?

A: Bofors is not an issue. It is a bogey that crops up because it suits some people. Today the NF-LF

[National Front-Left Front] is still in the process of forming, it is difficult to say at this stage what will emerge. If we find that anti-communal forces have to get together to fight communal forces, then it becomes a good base for getting together. But what the modalities will be it is difficult to say at this stage. But we want to retain our Congress identity, the rest is secondary.

Q: YOU THINK THE DIVISION AMONG CONGRESS HAS WEAKENED THE PARTY?

A: No I do not think so. Every time, the Congress becomes flabby or hostage to one or two leaders, it goes through this and emerges cleansed.

Q: YOUR GROUP BELIEVES THAT PRIME MINISTER NARASIMHA RAO HAS SWUNG THE CONGRESS FORM THE LEFT TO THE RIGHT.

A: Right or left has no meaning in the modern context, but the hurtful image he has built up is of a party that has deviated from the Congress as represented by Nehru and Indira Gandhi, not just in terms of personality but also the ideology they represented.

Q: BOTH YOUR GROUP AND THE OTHER SIDE, HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO ROPE IN MRS SONIA GANDHI TO RESCUE THE PARTY FROM ITS CURRENT CRISIS. DO YOU THINK SHE WILL COME TO THE RESCUE OF THE PARTY?

A: I think she should be kept out of this. Her concern is the country and the party, and I am certain that she would like the party to be vibrant.

Q: IS SHE A MEMBER OF THE PARTY?

A: She is part of the Congress family and enjoys a very special place in the party. But I don't think she is a member of the party, unless she has been nominated. We would like her to be a member, but she is the best person to say what she wants or does not want, to choose or not to choose. I don't think any of us have the right to make claims and counter-claims on her behalf. I think it is most unfair to her. I would beg all of us, leave her alone.

I know that Congressmen would like her to lead the party,people all over the country want her, to there are villages where she is considered almost as a goddess. But please let her decide for herself.

Results of Assembly By-Elections Announced

BK0106085795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The results of all the 26 assembly constituencies where by-elections were held on last Saturday [27 May] have come in. The last two results have been shared by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Janata Dal. The BJP retained the Katara Bazar seat in Uttar Pradesh where the party nominee, Mr. Babban Singh, defeated his nearest Samajwadi Party rival, Mr. Murlidhar Munim, by a margin of 900 votes. The Hilsa seat in Bihar has gone in favor of the Janata Dal candidate, Mr. Baiju Yadav. He defeated his nearest Samata Party rival, Mr. Ram Naresh Singh, by over 4,000 votes. The Congress-I has bagged 10 out of the 26 seats followed by the Janata Dal with four. The BJP and the Samajwadi Party got three each, the Telugu Desam Party two, and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], Forward Bloc, and Champaran Vikas Party one each.

Army Unhappy Over Indecision on Prithvi

95AS0356A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Mar 95 p 6

[Article by Dinesh Kumar: "Army Unhappy Over Indecision on Prithvi"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, March 29—The government's indecision on the deployment of the indigenously developed surface-to-surface (SS) Prithvi missile has caused disquiet in the army. The Prithvi, a tactical battlefield support missile, has a range of 150 km to 250 km.

The army was expecting to induct the Prithvi missiles by the middle of this year following successful user trials of the missile system in June last year. On its part, the army is learnt to have already presurveyed sites and targets. An embryo unit comprising officers and men trained in handling of the missile system has been in existence since over a year. Moreover, the army was close to establishing a complete service and maintenance infrastructure to ensure smooth induction of this weapon system. However, so far, the army has taken consolation in displaying a dummy of the Prithvi missile at Republic Day and Army Day parades.

But the recent statement of the minister of state for defence M. Mallikarjun indicates that the government has frozen the induction process of these missiles at least for the time being. Mr Mallikarjun was quoted as saying during a news conference in Abu Dhabi last week that although the missile had successfully achieved its objective and its user trials completed, we have yet to take a decision on serial production.

The statement has been received with some surprise by senior army officers and defence analysts. "Why should he (Mr Mallikarjun) make such a statement abroad during the course of an international defence exhibition where he was leading a delegation for exhibiting indigenously developed weapon systems," remarked a senior army officer while speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Mr Mallikarjun's statement came barely two days after the scientific advisor to the defence minister A.P.J. Abdul Kalam indicated that the country would not relent under pressure from the United States on deployment of Prithvi. He was quoted as saying at a news conference in Bangalore, "Our defence preparedness is based on the perception of threat to the nation's security. We cannot go by the suggestions of other countries on such matters."

Interestingly, the Indian armed forces does not have any kind of surface-to-surface missile in its inventory. Most missiles with the army are either for aerial defence or anti-tank. This is despite the fact that the Pakistani armed forces have already inducted two missile variants—Hatf-I and Hatf-II.

The Hatf-I, deployed in 1991, has a range of between 70 and 100 km, while the Hatf-II, deployed in 1993, has a range of up to 150 km which is equivalent to the range of the Prithvi. The import by Pakistan of the longer range M-11 missile kits from China are in addition to these two Hatf variants already inducted into the Pakistan army.

"We are not able to understand why the government is finding it hard to take a decision on deploying the Prithvi when Pakistan has already done so," says another senior army officer. "What is the point of developing such weapon systems if they are not meant to be deployed? Is the country rich enough to simply carry out technology demonstration," commented a DRDO [Defense Research Development Organization] official.

In the initial phase, the army was hoping to raise four regiments comprising 16 Prithvi missiles each. The first regiment was to be raised at Secunderabad where the missile was developed. The missiles are proposed to be mounted on mobile launchers fitted on the powerful Tartra trucks and would have formed part of the army headquarters reserve.

This means that the missiles, when inducted, will be kept in their peace-time location, well away from the border. This is intended to satisfy those who claim that the missile's deployment will destabilise the Indo-Pak situation. When required, the Prithvi missiles can always be air-lifted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) either by the Mi-26 helicopters or the IL-76 strategic lift transport aircraft.

In order to augment the Prithvi missile system, the army has been keen to place orders for 14 remotely piloted vehicles (RPV) or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). It is not known whether this proposal will go through with the government still undecided on whether or not to serialise production of the Prithvi. The Prithvi has been developed with two ranges—150 km and 250 km. While the army has placed orders for the 150 km range Prithvi missiles, the air force has yet to place orders for the 250 km range missile. There is also a proposal to extend the range of the Prithvi.

That some countries have been pressurising India to shelve its missile development plan is not new. As recent as on March 9 last, the United States had told India to restrain its missile development programme saying that the production and deployment of ballistic missiles would be "a very destabilising development." While stating this before a senate panel on near-eastern and South Asian affairs, assistant secretary of defence Joseph S. Nye had said that the United States had asked India not to be the first to deploy ballistic missiles.

Iran

Nuclear Cooperation Said Planned With ROK

LD0106100995 Tehran IRNA in English
0925 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June, 1, IRNA — The president of Iran-South Korea friendship group, 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, announced that Iran and South Korea are to cooperate in different projects such as power plants, Isfahan petrochemical industry, Kangan gas, and shipbuilding in Bandar-e 'Abbas.

Zali told the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES, published Thursday, that Iran expected to hold a joint commission with South Korea in the near future.

Quoting the Iranian ambassador to Seoul, Zali said that South Korea is cooperating with Iran without considering the U.S. embargo.

Zali, a member of budget and planning commission of the Majles, noted that nuclear power is the main source of energy in South Korea which is supported by the United States.

"The nuclear power cooperation between the U.S. and S. Korea clearly demonstrates the contradictory policy followed by the U.S. in relation to Iran and Russia," he stressed.

South Korea has emerged as an industrial and exporting country after years of economic crisis, Zali said, adding that although it does not have sufficient iron ore, the country ranks sixth in the world in steel production.

Stressing that the U.S. sanction helps Iran become more self- sufficient, he said, "since the question of U.S.

embargo is rudimentary the Majles will not concentrate on the subject."

The U.S. decision on the sanction is based upon its ignorance of the Iranian people's ideology and belief in Islam, the paper quoted him as saying.

China Does 'Not Pay Any Attention' to U.S. Embargo

LD2705120095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The first meeting of a joint economic session for economic, commercial, scientific, and technological cooperation between Iran and China was held in Beijing yesterday [26 May]. During the session, Chinese Vice Prime Minister Li Lanqing said: Despite some changes in international circumstances, the long-standing relations between Iran and China will never be affected by any change and will remain long-lasting forever.

On the U.S. trade embargo against Iran, the Chinese vice premier said: We do not pay any attention to the U.S. threats. That has been our policy in the past and it will remain so in the future. He stressed: China is ready to meet Iran's needs in various fields and at the highest level.

Cabinet Hears Report on PRC Agreements

LD3105192595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Cabinet held a session this afternoon chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

First, two reports were presented to the Cabinet. The first was a summary of negotiations and agreements reached between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China during a visit to China by Vice President for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh. The agreements were on economic, commercial, industrial, scientific, and technological cooperation. [passage omitted]

The Cabinet stressed the full implementation of the agreements, as well as the expansion of economic, commercial, and industrial cooperation with China.

The second report was by Mr. Reza'i, head of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, on the dispatch of 69,000 Iranian pilgrims to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

The Cabinet thanked all those involved in this year's Hajj pilgrimage.

In the continuation of today's session, a number of proposals by executive organs were approved. On the basis of one of the approvals, members of a committee in charge of setting prices for export goods were chosen and the Cabinet stressed that the committee would be set up immediately.

Qatari Minister Holds Talks, Discusses Ties

Meets Nateq-Nuri on Islamic 'Unity'

LD2905132595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatar's minister of finance, economy and trade, held talks today with Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the Majles speaker. Nateq-Nuri declared that the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of expansion of ties with the countries of the region, and stressed that paying attention to shared religious and cultural features would contribute to unity between Islamic countries.

The Majlis speaker expressed regret over the existence of some disputes between Islamic countries, and said: Today, the occupation of the Holy Land by the Zionists and the fact that Muslims are being sacrificed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in other parts of the world are the outcome of the absence of unity between Islamic countries. The Majles speaker referred to the efforts being made by some countries to sow discord between the countries of the sensitive Persian Gulf region, and said: The countries of the region must put an end to the possibility of discord by trusting one another.

The Majles speaker also expressed satisfaction with the expansion of ties between Iran and Qatar and described the latter's stances on Persian Gulf issues as logical and reasonable.

The Qatari minister said: We see the Islamic Republic of Iran as being a big and friendly country in the region, and we have consistently sought to expand our ties with Iran in all areas, especially those relating to economics and trade. He said: The fact that trade fairs are held by the Islamic Republic of Iran in Qatar every year reveals that ties between the two countries are growing.

Notes 'Necessary' Cooperation

LD2905221295 Tehran IRNA in English 2117 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the Qatari minister of economic and commercial affairs, Muhammad Bin-Khalifah, in their meeting here monday called cooperation between Iran, Qatar and other regional countries, as "necessary for peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region."

Muhammad Bin-Khalifah, who is the son of the Qatari emir, said his country's officials are making attempts to establish strong and lasting relations between Iran and Qatar.

He said the aim of his visit to Iran was to review ways for strengthening the bilateral economic cooperation such as the pipeline project to supply fresh water to Qatar from Iran, a gas trunkline and making more active the two countries' private sectors.

He said his country was for close and friendly relations with Iran and that Doha gives priority to economic cooperation with Tehran.

Velayati referred to the promotion of economic relations between the two countries and said practical understanding among regional states would lead to peace and stability in the region.

He added that close and concrete cooperation among regional states will stop outsiders from meddling in the region's affairs.

Discusses Ties With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

NC3005074795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0330 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday met Muhammad Bin-Khalifah al-Thani, the special emissary of the amir of Qatar, who is also Qatar's minister finance, economy and trade. The president described Qatar as a friendly country in the region and expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries would broaden further.

According to the Central News Unit, the president referred to the latest decision by the United States to increase and strengthen its military forces in the region as a way to generate insecurity and instability among the Persian Gulf countries. He called on the friendly countries in the southern Persian Gulf to resist this sinister plot and to strengthen regional friendship and cooperation.

During the meeting, the Qatari minister of finance, economy and trade stressed the Qatari amir and heir apparent's wishes to broaden cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: The commission that studies ways and means of cooperation between the two countries meets every six months. It is hoped that positive results will be achieved in broadening bilateral cooperation.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD2605144295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1030 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Among foreign issues, the most important topical issue is that of Palestine, and one can see significant matters, particularly regarding the usurpation of lands in Jerusalem and other parts of Palestine recently by the Israelis. Although Israel retreated and temporarily postponed its decision, it nonetheless showed that the Zionists are lying and do not seek peace, for if they sought peace, it would be meaningless to usurp lands in Jerusalem to build houses and for the Jews to run while they are engaged in peace talks.

Meanwhile, it was shown that the Americans, who proclaim to be mediators and who put on a show of benevolence for the Arabs, are telling lies and are not earnest. They have given the worst example at the Security Council. The debate was about condemning the expropriation of the new lands. There are 15 members there; 14 voted to condemn Israel and America vetoed it, destroying the votes of 14 other countries. It openly stood alongside Israel, looked the Arabs in the eye, and said: I take no notice of you. That is while it desperately needs Arab countries, both in the Persian Gulf and in the Middle East.

And the surprising thing is that America's two big parties are competing against each other. The Republicans have tabled a proposal in the Congress to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. That means to America that Jerusalem is Israel's capital, while it is part of the peace plan to discuss Jerusalem later, to see what can be done about it.

America has shown that it pays no attention to the peace plan, and it is surprising that the Arab governments do not recognize those signs, or do not want to. Some of them may have been deceived by Israel's temporary postponement. It is clear that this stemmed from Israel's domestic issues. The Israeli opposition party, Likud, intended to censure and bring down the government. It was short by two votes; five Arab representatives at the Israeli parliament, who are in coalition with the ruling party, said they would vote with Likud because they oppose the action of the Israeli Labor government on the Jerusalem issue. That meant that if those five votes had gone in Likud's favor, the Israeli Government would have fallen. Therefore, it was forced to postpone the matter to gain those five votes.

The Arabs do not understand that. Everybody knows that was the issue, but it has been claimed that Israel has relented temporarily. We are really sorry that the Arabs deliberately pretend to be deaf and blind and do not wish to see those facts.

There is also the important Bosnian issue. As you saw, although NATO has taken action, be it for show, the Serbs are audaciously attacking the town of Tuzla. It is indeed a strange phenomenon in history for NATO, with all its might, to have declared war, and they say: We will do what we like. And we see that nothing serious is being done.

In one's view, it looks like deceit, because if it were real, it would not be difficult for NATO, with all its facilities around the Balkans, to stop the injustice. That is really noteworthy.

Our important domestic discussion is an explanation about the government's new policy of controlling the hard currency parity exchange rate and the market. This, on the one hand, is not a new policy; but since it has been announced recently, it might on the other hand be interpreted as a new policy. I wish to discuss this issue to make it clear to our people what our decision is. The objectives of this discussion are to attract more support from the people and to draw the attention of the saboteurs to the fact that they are treading on the wrong path and should alter their course one day.

This is a continuation of the discussion I raised here in one of my Friday sermons a few months ago. At the time, I said that as a principled policy we have taken a firm decision to regulate the market. We also set up the market regulation headquarters. On that same day, I said the task requires some time — It is not as if such a major task and such a deeply controversial socio-economic and political issue, which is linked to many other problems inside and outside the country, could have been settled in a short time. Rather, this requires a lengthy, deep, and comprehensive movement, the serious effects of which will appear in society within a period of one to two years.

Well, we began our task. It was clear to us on that day, and became clearer after a couple of months, that the problems of currency speculation and commodity smuggling are two highly significant factors which would prevent the completion of our task if we did not incorporate them into our plan. Now I will explain this point further:

Several years ago, the Council for Discerning What Is Best for the System [the Expediency Council] passed a law. The law, however, did not mention anything about the currency and commodity smuggling. We began our move of regulating the market by relying on that law. Shortly afterwards the experts told us that at the time of passing the law, the issue of currency was not so significant; and if we wish to achieve success at this juncture, we must incorporate the currency issue into the state penal code [passage omitted]

The reason for attaching so much importance to this issue is that it is an important chain of the market-regulating process, and the reason for its importance is as I explain below:

In the past, the currency earned from exports had no role, or a very small role, in the country's economy. It was a figure of less than $1 billion compared to the oil revenue of $20 billion per year. The figure was so small that speculation did not have any influence. But this is no longer the case today. Today's official figure of earnings from exports and services is over $5 billion. Out of this figure, $4.5 billion is officially recorded, a large part of it is the goods carried by passengers, and over $1 billion is the currency earned from services. The latter is the money earned by Iranians working abroad — that is, the workers in the Persian Gulf, Japan, and other countries earn their money in foreign currency and return it to the country. In sum, a figure of about $6 billion in hard currency, earned from non-oil commodities, is injected into the economy.

If we were to ignore this $6 billion without introducing some control measures, the mischievous individuals, that is, the speculators and profiteers, would take control of this important lever. This means they would hold the rein of the country's economy. This is the currency which meets most of the requirements in our factories and the cost of purchasing a large part of our consumer goods. It is used for purchasing raw materials and other requirements of the factories.

To us today, when we discuss the issue of regulating the market as a serious matter in our country, particularly in the wake of America's new move, if we were to lose the rein of currency, it would mean we would not be able to regulate other phases either [as heard]; for if the currency value fluctuates with an upward trend, the factory output prices will increase daily. This is like a chain linked to the rest of life and would influence every aspect of one's life in reality or in psychosomatic terms. We must be present at this juncture so that nothing evil should occur.

I said that in the past, this issue was not important. It has become important today and will become more significant in the future. This is because the value of the foreign currency earned from exports is growing daily. We are now entering the world market. Previously we did not have any goods to export. At present, there are thousands of new factories and workshops which supply the market with their products. Some of the major projects, which started by investing during the first plan, are now coming into fruition. These will enter the export market. A day will come soon that our foreign currency earnings from export items will equal or surpass the oil revenue. [passage omitted]

Another issue which immediately became clear to us is that as soon as we started to fight against hoarding and against creating black markets for goods, and when it was no longer in the interest of rich people to hoard goods here, they went and used their money for smuggling and for foreign currency speculation.

The issue of smuggling is a serious problem for our country. The enemy is encouraging this and is providing the smugglers with goods. They import unnecessary goods, they make use of incorrect methods and disrupt our policies. These two issues — dealing with hoarders and with foreign currency speculators or smugglers — have been put under government control as the result of the resolution passed by the Expediency Discernment Council. This was one of the most important and decisive decisions of the Expediency Council.

This could not have been the work of the Majles, because the Majles can pass laws within the framework of the Constitution. The Guardian Council sometimes refers back some of the bills passed by the Majles due to this reason. But the Expediency Council is above the Guardian Council and can pass resolutions which even if they contravene the Constitution, we can accept them due to expediency. It was correct that this decision should be taken here in the Expediency Council.

There may be some ambiguous points in the decision that we have taken and I wish to explain them so that mischief makers cannot mislead the people. One of the things that they have said or that they may say is that 300 tumans is too low at the moment as the rate for foreign currency, and that it should be higher. We do not accept this. The reverse is true. It is even too high. Our experts — nearly most of them [as heard] — believe that the rate of exchange at the moment should be less than 200 tumans per dollar.

If we have accepted that figure for the time being it is due to the fact that part of the past dealings of our producers and merchants have been calculated on the basis of a higher rate. If we had dropped the rate all of a sudden, it would have been possible that they might have sustained heavy shocks, and we do not wish to create shocks in the market. This has to be done in stages. At the moment, we have fixed the rate for one year. Next year we will look at it again and we will reconsider the situation. Our experts mainly believe that it should be below 200 tumans to the dollar. Of course, this is not a definite promise. We should investigate the matter later and see what the rate should be. At the moment, with 300 tumans we can create an equilibrium in the marketplace and we have accepted this rate.

The second issue which they raise is that the time that we have specified for people to return their foreign exchange earnings to the banks is too short. We have said three months or six months; six months for carpets and three months for the other goods exported when they have to return the foreign exchange earned as the result of their export dealings to the banks.

It is possible that the foreign currency earned on some export items will not be returned within three or six months. We have come across that idea in our discussions. There are three reasons why we have chosen that time-scale. Those who are involved in foreign currency dealings should listen carefully.

First of all, the government should provide factories with foreign currency at the moment in the place of currency earned as the result of their exports; because it is not clear if we can get any foreign currency from the factories before three months' time, as all of them wait and bring the foreign currency at the very last moment. We cannot wait for the return of foreign currency any longer than three months, because we have to pay with the foreign currency existing in the banks. We have started from yesterday and on the basis of the program that we have we will pay foreign currency for all the requirements of production and all other real requirements of the country. Therefore, we should also set a deadline for bringing for the return of foreign currency.

Second, there are many goods whose foreign currency earnings will be returned in less than three months. This is clear to us.

Third, the gentlemen who are exporters have been exporting for many months and at the moment they have their goods in foreign markets. They have no other needs for the foreign currency which they earn as the result of their existing goods which are in the market. We have limited all ways of making use of foreign currency to the banks. Outside the banks no one has the right to make use of foreign currency. They should pay their foreign currency to the banks and they should make use of them on the basis of the existing regulations. Therefore, the foreign currency which they have exported in the past and which has not been returned to the banks is at their disposal. They can come and pay sooner by making use of those foreign currencies and replace them for later goods.

Fourth, we have included a clause and have said that if due to some justifiable reason it has been made clear that a foreign currency earning has not been returned to the country during that time-scale — three months for carpets and six months for other goods — we will accept this. Of course, there will be an expert group dealing with these exceptional cases. Therefore, the deadline which we have fixed is a very appropriate time. It will not change till the end of the year. They should cooperate and return foreign currency earnings to the banks.

Another thing they also say and create doubt over is that: well, much of the foreign currency earnings is now in the hands of the people. Individuals have them, businessmen have them. It is outside the country. What about that? Our explanation is that if they really wish to make use of their foreign exchange they can bring it and deposit it at the bank. If they wish to receive profit [sud], the bank will give them profit. If they wish to sell foreign currency to others, they can do so through the bank. They can use it for imports; for the imports that we have. We have decided many routes for that.

If, in any case, some hard currency remains outside the banking network, we accept that. But the foundations of our move, the spirit of our move, is what I tell you now. We seek to break the link between the foreign exchange black-market and the people's lives and the country's economy. That means — allow me — whatever happens at the community level: production, trade, distribution; all that must be linked to the official and legal foreign exchange which comes through the banks. If there are foreign currencies outside the banks... [pauses] and there is a possibility for that. There may be some individuals who may wish to transgress, to act against the law and exchange among themselves surreptitiously and away from the eyes of our officials — which is all against the law and if seen they will be fined and the currency confiscated. That may occur. That becomes like the opium which exists within the community. It has some effect on a corner of our economy as well. It is imported illegally, distributed illegally. Some profit by it, some make losses through it. But it no longer has a devastating effect on the running of the state economy. On that level there will always be offenders. They are caught sometimes, or at times get off scot-free. That does happen. But from now on none of the traders or producers or those connected with the lawful economy of the country can use the pretext of saying foreign currency prices are up or down. If the foreign currency goes up or comes down in price abroad it will have nothing to do with us since in the economy channel the lawful producer, distributor and importer will all do his work through the 300 tuman foreign exchange rate, or the foreign currency which the government will supply at lower prices to subsidize the import of, say, cooking oil, lump and granulated sugar, wheat, fodder, etc. That will be the foreign currency at 175 tumans for each dollar and it has its own particular course.

You see therefore that the policy is clear: preventing influence by those saboteurs who demonstrated during the U.S. sanctions that they are ready to cooperate with America; who demonstrated that they are ready to feed Radio Israel. Just when the Americans declared an economic war, those individuals also declared an economic war against their own nation. They did all the things that do not fit an Iranian at all. They may say that that was due to market forces but market forces are not like that. The economy moves steadily. It is not such that the foreign currency being traded at 300 tumans today becomes 500 tumans the next day. That can only be a conspiracy. We noticed that they must be taken away from the economy of the country. And that was the right decision. The path of movement of the economy is what you see now: either the products are domestic, or the material is domestic, or the material is imported at the rate of 300 tumans or less, and therefore fluctuations no longer have any meaning. What has meaning is just profits. And we will get just profits.

Let me tell you here and now: the strengthening of the economy was part of our aims. Now the exporter knows that he will be paid cash by the bank for the hard currency he returns to the country at a rate of 300 tumans. He had other profits before by selling currency receipt forms or embark on importing. We have now brought the price of those things under the currency rate. He will get proper profits. Anyone who is ready to be content with that profit will come to the arena; which is most profitable since the condition for it is that its profits should be more than other forms of trade. We have accepted that because encouraging exports is crucial, because it is crucial for us to cut our link with oil exports, because our independence and future must be based on a balance between the non-oil exports and imports. Those are parts of the principles of the State Development Plan which are important and they are being pursued. The move, in its present form, is just in the direction of the policy of economic adjustment and I believe there is no replacement for it either. Some have already begun their mischief, saying that it detracts from the policy of adjustment.

That is not so at all. When you look around the world you see that even large countries, like the European countries, do not allow any amount of foreign exchange to go out of the country or come in. That is done through the banks. Passengers sell their foreign currencies to the banks when they arrive. They get their foreign currencies from the banks. The control of foreign exchange and prevention of the economy becoming bound by foreign exchange is one of the common policies of the world's freest economies. We offered extra concessions at a juncture in order to give a lot of leeway to exports and increase our exports from $800 million to $4 or $5 billion — which we have done. Those extra concessions are no longer necessary. The economy is continuing its natural course and fortunately in the past few days most exporting circles have said through letters, messages, and statements that they are totally in agreement with this. Only a few quibble over the timescales. The explanations I gave about that can go some way to convince them that at the moment the timescales are proper. [passage omitted]

The policy which is being implemented now has taken the essential steps for regulating the market. Of course there are other steps that we will be taking one at a time. We have limited the goods brought in by passengers. Formerly passengers could bring in goods to the value of $80 without paying any tax or customs duty, up to $160 including customs duty — which was twice — and anything over that would carry customs duty according to the norms.

We said that passengers should not bring in goods with a higher value. They can have goods to the maximum value of $160. That was because a large number of people were speculating through this. [passage omitted]

Anything more than that must be handed over to the customs officials and cannot be released from the customs and will be sent back to the port of origin.

There are several other unnecessary sources using foreign currency and we are dealing with them toward a proper import and export system. These will be announced gradually. The recent decision will bring calm to the markets. Those people who had regulated their commodities with the more expensive foreign currency must return foreign currency or they won't get any more foreign currency from us. They will have to return it. We approve those who have regulated their deals with the current foreign currency rate. It is a fair rate of interest for the markets and the markets find the interest rates acceptable for traders, wholesalers, businessmen, retailers, and producers. We have envisioned an interest for them all. The policy should bring calm, God willing. It made me sad sometimes that a group of foreign- currency profiteers — intermediaries in imposing the policy of foreigners — were not allowing people to enjoy the fruits of the country's developments. There has been so much development; dams, airports, highways, great factories, ports, petrochemical complexs, steel factories, and communication networks. People see them up and running everyday. But a group of saboteurs have behaved in every way to deprive people of the pleasures of all those developments, so as to create a constant state of high prices and overcharging and so as to put the policy of adjustment under the influence of such unbalanced movements.

But government policy has been designed toward development, toward the policy of economic adjustment and toward continuing the possibility of eliminating unnecessary subsidies. The time frame for implementing the policy is from the current Iranian year [beginning March 1995]. We stated in the second development plan, presented to the Majles, that the policies of adjustment and stabilization would go forward together. This is the meaning of stabilization. And adjustment means the continuation of the path which we have been following. These are coordinated and progressive policies. I ask those writers who have little information not to disturb public opinion unnecessarily by saying that there has been a revision and that they had predicted the failure of the policy for market regulation. No! The policy will succeed. There is a policy and there is a need for time. A movement which has taken many decades to get here needs several more years of work to bring about the proper conditions. Thank God that is the way it is going. [passage omitted]

Regional Cooperation Against U.S. 'Plots' Urged

NC3105093395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0345 GMT 31 May 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] In two separate meetings with the Omani minister of industries and commerce and with the Qatari amir's envoy, our President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that America's decision to increase its military presence in the region is an attempt at hegemony. Referring to the insecurity that this attempt will cause, our president said that the friendly countries in the southern Persian Gulf are expected to resist the sinister plot to permanently deploy foreign forces in the region and, by correctly understanding their hegemonistic objectives, to try to strengthen regional friendship and cooperation.

Political analysts believe that after two destructive wars—the imposed Iran-Iraq war, and the Oil War—the establishment of peace and security in the sensitive and strategic Persian Gulf area is at the top of all the regional countries' political priorities. This objective can be fulfilled only when all the regional countries strictly refrain from any acts that may threaten the security of each other or the region.

America's efforts to reconstitute its Fifth Fleet and to permanently station it in the Persian Gulf, as well as its cooperation with one of the regional countries in this hegemonistic plan, threatens regional security because it is not clear if, in the future, America's interests will always coincide with the national interests of some of the regional countries or even the host country. Thus, the current sensitive conditions dictate that the regional countries exchange views and cooperate further in not allowing foreigners to interfere in regional affairs on bogus pretexts and by using propaganda. They should not allow foreigners to upset the atmosphere of friendship, security, and tranquility here in service of their own goals.

Nateq-Nuri Reelected Majles Speaker

LD3005120495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Elections were held at today's open Majles session to elect members of the permanent Majles presidium for the final year of the fourth legislative term. Mr. Nateq-Nuri was reappointed the Majles speaker. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] The members of the Majles permanent presidium were elected today for the last year of the fourth term by secret ballot. Mr. Nateq-Nuri was reappointed Majles speaker with 214 votes. Hasan Rowhani and Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi-Kermani were elected deputy speakers, with 198 votes and 147 votes respectively. Messrs Bahonar, Sobhaninia, Yahyavi, Angaji, Akrami and Shahrzad were elected secretaries, and Askarowladi, Abbaspur-Tehrani-Fard and Taqavi were elected as presidium clerks [karpardaz]

The members of the new presidium will be sworn in at tomorrow's open session. [passage omitted]

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Armed Forces Commanders

LD3105201195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Nateq-Nuri, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, today addressed a group of the Law Enforcement Force commanders, regional advisors, and heads of regional security offices. He stressed: The Islamic Republic of Iran's Law Enforcement Force should confront any kind of social corruption emphatically and without hesitation. It should also close the country's borders to smugglers.

The Majles speaker said: The success of the government's new plan aimed at stabilizing foreign currency rates and creating market stability depends on serious confrontation against smugglers. [passage omitted]

The Majles speaker said: None of the country's top officials supports any mischief-maker and it is not true what some people say that big shots cannot be confronted. [passage omitted]

Majles Official Defends Human Rights Record

MS0106103095 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 1 Jun 95 p 14

[Report on interview with Dr Sa'id Rajavi Khorasani, member of Foreign Relations Committee, secretary-general of the International Parliamentary Union Group of Iran, and chairman of Human Rights Committee of the Majles, by Robert Fisk in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dr Sa'id Rajavi Khorasani has a very impressive visiting card. "MP," it says. "Member of Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary General International Parliamentary Union Group of Iran, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of Majlis (parliament), Imam Khomeini Street, Tehran."

It is the "human rights" bit that catches the eye. Death sentences, stonings, punishment are what we westerners think about, although — predictably — that is not quite the way Dr Khorasani regards the phrase.

"The interpretation of different nations regarding the so-called human rights situation differs very much," he says. "There are things which take place in England, for example, that create deep distress in Iran. Take sexual assaults against children. We can't tolerate this here. We believe that an innocent child only has the protection of his parents. There was a case in the German courts of a four or five-year old child who had been assaulted by his father — but the courts didn't seem to care very much."

Attack, as usual, seems to be the best form of defence on such subjects in Iran. And while we are busy objecting to Dr Khorasani's approach, trying to forget the "string-em-up" mentality that characterises many of our own dark responses — Iran's human rights leader is forging ahead in justification: "When this kind of thing happens here, people don't take it indifferently. They attack and kill the father on the spot. The brother who sexually attacks his sister — the biggest crime that can happen. In such cases, the conduct of the law in this country does not necessarily correspond with the law in Europe or America."

We recall for Mr Khorasani a widely circulating, but unconfirmed, report in Tehran that a 13-year old boy who sexually assaulted his sister was stoned to death, and that the girl will later have to marry a boy of the same age who joined her brother in the rape. "When you refer to specific cases like this, you have to realise that human rights here are not as bad as reported in the West. You choose not to take account of human rights abuses here like the over-crowding of prisoners in Kerman and Zahedan, where a great deal of drug-trafficking takes place and where jails are hopelessly overcrowded. This is an outstanding example of negligence and abuse of human rights — but such issues are not of use to westerners who wish to attack Iran." In all conversations about human rights, we are invariably led down the same path. Different cultures, a different religion, another way of looking at morality, a defensive mechanism that turns all criticism of individual abuses into an argument about motives and the double standards of the West. So, as usual, we start again. For what crimes are defendants punished with the death sentence? And here Dr Khorasani — a small, eloquent, man who was Iran's ambassador to the United Nations: in New York (where the Americans accused him of shoplifting, wrongly he says) — is very precise indeed about the issue.

"The death penalty is imposed for murder, for premeditated killing. It is imposed for drug smuggling, depending on the degree of the crime." And adultery? "If a married woman has sexual intercourse with a man, both are supposed to be sentenced to death. Usually the emotion against the man for the crime is stronger than against the woman because it is assumed that the man is more to blame. The problem comes when a woman has been involved in regular adultery with men. Then the death sentence is definitely confirmed. I am not totally against the death sentence. I can imagine a case where a woman must be sentenced to death — because it is the unavoidable decision of the law. But, of course, I don't like to see it."

If a married woman and an unmarried man are found to have committed adultery, the punishment may not be death — unless the man has resort "to other legal means of sexual satisfaction and tried to seduce the woman". But, if — and he repeats the word "if" — children have been sentenced to death, he "strongly" condemns it.

So we move on to hijab, the obligatory covering of women to which some women in Iran, when they are talking to foreigners, object volubly. Not to abide by this ruling is forbidden according to Islamic law, Dr Khorasani says. "This requires that women wear hijab. Most women welcome this. They think it's part of their identity. I appreciate the differences of taste. But Islamic law does not take taste into account."

Dr Khorasani swears by the integrity of the Iranian courts, brushing aside the fact that large number of clerics sit on the judiciary, insisting they do so through their expertise in jurisprudence rather than their theological commitment. Yes, he says, the penalty for alcohol consumption is "80 lashes", but this is not often imposed.

And what of the police who stop cars at night and object to the clothes that women passengers or drivers are wearing? What of the women who have complained that they are arrested merely for walking with young men not their husband? The police have merely been hunting for car thieves, he says.

There was an impatience in Dr Khorasani's voice. He was happier talking about the horrific human rights abuses against the Muslims of Bosnia, where Iran's offer of 10,000 peacekeepings troops has been turned down by the West. He is concerned about the lack of freedom in the Iranian press caused by editors, he says, who have turned down his request for a regular column on human rights. "When I asked for this they said, 'You are speaking the language of the enemy'. How can I expect such people to make papers available for discussion of human rights abuses?"

Why, he even wanted a new anti-corruption law to be passed in parliament that would force members and ministers to publish their commercial interests. For once, Dr Khorasani saw no Western parallels.

Pakistan

Leghari Addresses Indian Missile 'Threat'

BK3105091795 Islamabad THE NATION in English 31 May 95 pp 1, 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Prithvi and other Indian missiles are No. 1 threat to Pakistan's security.

Besides, India's missile programme will also unleash a devastating missile race in the region.

"Pakistan will do whatever is necessary for its security, in view of India's missile threat. Pakistan has the means to protest itself," President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said here today.

But, Pakistan is also urging India not to enter the second phase of its missile production and deployment, Mr Leghari said while talking to members of Islamabad Foreign Correspondents Association (IFCA).

Pakistan, at the same time, is active on the diplomatic front, to prevent a major arms race in the region.

"We have asked the United States to use its good offices with India and Pakistan, and persuade New Delhi not to go into production of Prithvi missiles. We want a Zero missile level in the region. Otherwise, the serial production of missiles will lead to a futile arms race", said the President.

President Leghari said "We are very unhappy over India's missile programme. It is going on with this programme for which New Delhi got the technology from Russia. The missiles programme, which it will unleash, will be expensive and non-productive."

"A missile race in the region will be a tension multiplier", Mr. Farooq Leghari said.

In his 100-minute meeting with the foreign correspondents, he covered several topics including foreign affairs, domestic politics, economy and Karachi, and answered a number of questions.

"Prithvi missile," he said is "Pakistan-specific." "It endangers all Pakistani cities, and economic areas. The missile is nuclear capable. It gives us no reaction time — only two to three minutes. What can we do in that short period? How Pakistan should react to protect itself? India is pushing us into a missile race. India's Agni missile will target not only Pakistan, but the Middle East, the Far East and China. It's a very serious development."

New Delhi, he said, claims, that Prithvi is not deployed against Pakistan. "Who can believe India," Mr Leghari asked.

The President proposed that India and Pakistan should sit together and hold talks on missiles, bilaterally or on a multilateral platform. "The talks should not be cosmetic, or meant just to tell the world or to overcome some expediency," but should tackle the issue seriously.

Mr. Leghari was asked about his views on New Delhi's Monday [29 May] announcement postponing elections in the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and putting the disputed territory under direct control of the central government.

"How can India hold elections in the presence of 600,000 to 650,000 of its troops, the biggest in the history of the occupied Kashmir," he said in the first official Pakistani comment since Monday's postponement.

He said, "everyone knows how low the turnover was in the past when the so-called elections were held. Compared to that period, the strength of Indian troops there now is four times. India can hold so-called elections on its own peril, in such a situation. It will only mean prolonging the agony of the people. The Kashmiri people don't want elections. They want to decide about their own destiny."

President Leghari said: Kashmir problem cannot be solved through military means. Such a solution is not possible with 600,000 to 650,000 troops occupying a small area, with a small population. By trying to hold elections, India is not healing, but it is prolonging the agony of the people of Kashmir. India should drastically reduce its troop level in Kashmir. It should reverse legislation like TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act] genuinely. Political dialogue should be held with the parties concerned-which means Pakistan and the People of Kashmir, so that modalities for the machinery to ascertain the will of the people are decided.

President Farooq Leghari also said that a number of parties, groups and organisations are involved in terrorism in Karachi.

There are various types of terrorism in Karachi, including political terrorism. "There is a great amount of evidence to link it to MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] (Altaf). "Others involved in terrorism in Karachi include: Qadir Magsi, Murtaza Bhutto, several other groups, India, criminals, gangs from Punjab and Sindh which have gone to Karachi, and several religious sects and groups."

The President made these remarks while talking to Islamabad Foreign Correspondents Association (IFCA).

He said poor living and social conditions, slums, breakdown of civil services and utilities, and the city's crumbling infrastructure which was neglected for the last 15 years, have created hardships for the people and a situation of criminality. "There is a happy hunting ground in Karachi for criminals and terrorists," he added.

Now, the government has undertaken a massive multibillion rupees programme to change the face of Karachi and improve quality of life of the people.

Leghari greatly stressed the need "to stem, to reversing the tide of violence in Karachi." But, he admitted that in the immediate future, unless all political and religious parties and other groups sit down for talks, "killings will go on, killings will continue," because terrorist and criminal groups do it in a premeditated manner.

"Karachi is a complex problem. It does not brook a simple solution," he said while answering a question about that city's situation. A correspondent had asked his comments on the warning by MQM to start an agitation because Prime Minister Bhutto, at Kasur, had reportedly called them terrorist. Over the PM's remarks at Kasur, Mr Altaf Hussain is angry, a correspondent had said to the President.

"All parties and groups should sit down and talk. MQM is the most important of them," said the President. He said that, recently, sectarian killings in Karachi have gone down as a result of a heavy crackdown. In one instance, when a number of people died and several others were injured at a Shia gathering, the Sunnis of the area donated their blood for the Shia injured.

"It is in the interest of Prime Minister's government and PPP [Pakistan People's Party] that peace should prevail in Sindh, and a peaceful dialogue should take place," in order to achieve it. He said during his meetings with MQM leaders he had advised them that there should be an end to violence, because he believes that "if political parties enter into a dialogue, violence can come to an end."

He said there is a terrorist element in MQM and other parties and groups. "I am in favour of a political dialogue with all parties all should cut down on terrorism and stop it," Mr Leghari said.

Scientist: No Rollback in Nuclear Program

BK0106015695 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 25 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — Pakistan's renowned nuclear scientist Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan has assured the nation that the country's nuclear programme has neither been capped nor rolled back.

Dr. Khan held out this assurance during an exclusive interview with THE FRONTIER POST on Tuesday [23 May] at the Ghulam Ishaq Khan [GIK] Institute at Topi, where he had come to hold a meeting with the US ambassador to Pakistan. Ambassador John C. Monjo was invited by the administration of the GIK Institute to have a first-hand knowledge of the institution which is seen by certain Western quarters as an extension of the Kahuta nuclear project.

Dr. Khan, in reply to a question, said that the president, the prime minister and the foreign minister have repeatedly affirmed that the country's nuclear programme had not been rolled back. "We should trust them as all the three could not tell the nation lies", he remarked.

Asked if Pakistan's nuclear programme was progressing, he replied: "It is going on as it was". Reminded of the former chief of the army staff, Gen. Aslam Beg's assertion that it has been capped, Dr. Khan replied, Aslam Beg was not the ruler of the country, but only the chief of the army staff, whereas this programme comes under the discipline of the prime minister, who is supposed to decide on it in consultation with the president and the army chief besides his or her advisers, like the foreign minister. "As far as the question of national interest goes, in my opinion nobody is ready to compromise it. It is our misconception that we form opinions like: the prime minister will betray the nation, Nawaz Sharif will do so or Gen. Zia had compromised it. I know from experience that so far nobody has compromised on it."

Asked in his opinion which of the Pakistani rulers has taken the most rigid stand on the nuclear programme of the country, Dr. Khan said: "All, none of them has shown any flexibility. Look, Z.A. Bhutto initiated it, he could not be frightened at all, and he continued with it. Then came Gen. Ziaul Haq, who was there for eleven years. without making any compromise on it, following by Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Benazir Bhutto, Nawaz Sharif and, then again, Benazir Bhutto. None of them showed any pliancy in view of the important nature of the affair."

Commenting on allegations leveled by politicians against each other with regard to abandoning the national nuclear programme, he said that it was unfortunate that politicians had been exploiting this issue for their own political ends. "Similar is the attitude towards Kashmir" he added. "It is our bad luck that both the sensitive issues, Kashmir and the nuclear programme, have become a political football tossed around here and there. As a matter of principle, it is the need of the hour to evolve a unanimous policy on these gut national issues," he maintained.

In Response to a query how he compared Pakistan's nuclear programme to that of India, A.Q. Khan said that there could be no comparison between the two as both of them had different approaches towards their nuclear programmes. "India's nuclear programme is much larger and older than ours" he said, adding that ours was meant for peaceful purposes only. "The two programmes are supposed to be different in size, capacity and nature, considering that India is a much larger country with ample resources and greater defence spending. However, we are doing our best at our own level to meet our requirements. Similar is the attitude of Indians towards their programme."

To a question about the reported Iranian plans to acquire nuclear capability, Dr. Khan said that it was difficult to form any opinion as to the nuclear programme of a country where you have not even been. While referring to the allegations against Iran's desire to have nuclear weapons, he said that it was part of Western propaganda. "I don't think that Iranians are involved in any such exercise as Tehran is already a signatory to the NPT [nuclear Non—Proliferation Treaty]", he argued.

He referred to a recent announcement by the International Atomic Energy Agency, [IAEA] certifying that it could not find any evidence suggesting that Iran was involved in nuclear pursuit. Dr. Khan said that despite the IAEA certification, Tehran has always been willing for any inspection of its defence installations by the agency. Therefore, there is no reason for believing the Western propaganda. He is of the view that the alleged Iranian backing of the racial Palestinian movement, Hamas, was the basic cause of West's annoyance with Iran. "The Western propaganda against Iran is, in fact, aimed at keeping Tehran under pressure", he further said.

Regarding a question about indefinite extension of the NPT, the top nuclear scientist said that the treaty hardly carried any relevance to our situation. "It is a decision of those who already had the bombs and will continue with them", he explained and added, "we are not allowed to manufacture atomic bomb under the NPT and the situation will go on and on to our detriment.

Dr. Khan strongly urged greater allocation in the national budget for the education sector, saying that literacy alone held the key to our multiple problems. He vehemently demanded of the government to increase 10-fold the allocation for education.

Agreements With China on Trade, Communications

BK2905142795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and China have agreed to increase border trade and improve their communication and postal services. This was decided at talks between officials of the two countries in Gilgit today. They also agreed to further facilitate the flow of tourists on the Karakoram Highway. The two countries will keep strict vigilance on illegal trafficking of drugs, wildlife, and terrorist activities. The Chinese delegation also agreed to cooperate with Pakistan for the extension of postal facilities to the Central Asian countries via Chinese territory.

Captured Bosnian Peacekeeper Reportedly 'Safe'

BK0106034695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Captain Manzoor Ahmad of Pakistan, a United Nations military observer in Bosnia and one of the hostages taken by the Serbian aggressors, is safe. Captain Manzoor and five other UN military observers from Nigeria, the Czech Republic, Netherlands, Poland, and Sweden have been kept at a radar station so that NATO could not mount an air strike on this important Serbian installation. A senior UN official said that every effort was being made for the release and well-being of the officers being detained by the Serbs.

In the meantime, the UN secretary general has welcomed the offer of some troop contributing countries to deploy additional forces to reduce the vulnerability of UN peacekeepers and to pursue the objectives of the quest for peace and protection of human lives. It is understood that Pakistan is among the countries which have offered additional troops in case some of the European countries decide to withdraw their contingents. A contingent of 3,000 Pakistani troops is serving with the UN peace force in Bosnia.

Reportage on Bomb Explosions in Karachi

Official: 'Terrorists Involved'

BK0106102395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to APP, a car bomb exploded at the Sindh Provincial Assembly building in Karachi this morning. There are no reports of any casualties and the building was undamaged.

(Nabiul Gaboor), deputy speaker of the assembly, described the explosion as an attempt to spread fear and panic. Provincial Minister Nadir Magsi said this is an anti-state activity carried out with encouragement and support from across the border. He added that the government will not spare the terrorists involved in this incident and they will be treated sternly.

AFP Reports on 2nd Bomb

BK0106104195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0826 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, June (AFP) — A powerful car bomb exploded within the premises of the Sindh provincial assembly here Thursday [1 June], with another bomb blast reported near the Pakistani Navy residential quarters in another area, officials said.

No one was hurt in the two explosions, both caused by devices placed in cars, they said.

A bomb planted on a grey car parked on the premises of the provincial assembly building was detonated with a timer, bomb disposal expert Moeenuddin said.

The other exploded in a taxicab near the naval residential area.

Sri Lanka

Daily Provides 'Text' of President's Address

BK3105011495 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 24 May 95 p 16

["Text" of address to the nation by President Chandrika Kumaratunga televised on 22 May]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "Today, as we commemorate the Nations' Heroes, I speak to you with a sense of satisfaction with our achievements in some important areas, while I feel a sense of deep sadness about the recent turn of events in the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka. [no closing quotation mark as published]

Last year, we went to the polls with a pledge to rebuild a decent and stable society in our country, to restore democracy and human rights, to wipe out corruption and inefficiency in government, to build a dynamic, prosperous and equitable economy, and above all, to bring peace to our conflict-ridden, war-torn country. You expressed support for our programme with a massive electoral mandate.

In all areas of government in which we had control, we moved fast to fulfill our pledges. In the areas of restoration of democracy and human rights, and the establishment of honest and transparent governance we have achieved resounding success.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In the field of economic development, we were able to move rapidly towards stabilising an economy devastated by waste, corruption and a lack of national planning. Inflation was brought down from 13 per cent in August 1994 to 7 per cent by February and March 1995, the budget deficit was reduced from 10 per cent to 7.5 per cent, several new, large foreign investments were negotiated and are in the process of commencement, the prices of most essential items have been reduced, the economically weaker sections of our people have been accorded various concessions. We are giving fertiliser subsidy, and loan facilities to farmers, subsidies for bread, infant milk food, sugar and kerosene and have given salary increases for large sectors of employees, and soon the Samurdhi Programme will bring 12 lakhs of needy families into a "Social Safety Net" and new employment. The practical results of these programmes, in the form of increased employment, incomes and buying power, and increased production will be seen by the end of this year.

Whilst we rejoice at these achievements, I feel a deep sense of sorrow that we have had to commit once again the armed forces and the people to the immense sufferings of armed conflict, and that hundreds of young people have to die once more in the North and East of our country.

3-PRONGED APPROACH

The Government is committed to finding a solution to the vexed problem relating to the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka, just as it has addressed a range of other problems speedily and effectively. We embarked on the peace initiative, buttressed by a clear and methodical strategy. Ours was a 3-pronged approach to the problem.

First and foremost, we took action to alleviate the hardships which had been imposed upon the Tamil people by the ravages of war. The second element of our strategy consisted of the cessation of hostilities which we successfully negotiated with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Thirdly, it was our objective to bring the armed conflict to an end and to evolve a durable solution to the problems of the Tamil people through the commencement of a political dialogue. These were the principal components of the strategy which we resorted to in order to achieve peace.

Consequently, in furtherance of the first of these aims, we took appropriate action to provide the Tamil speaking people with basic commodities and services which they required in their daily lives. We lifted the embargo in respect of more than 70 items, and restrictions remained only with regard to eight. We also acted rapidly to remove the prohibition in respect of fishing which had become the sole significant means of livelihood of the people of the affected areas because of the destruction which had followed in the wake of the war.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED

We opened 2 major highways, namely Elephant Pass and Pooneryn Sangupiddy Roads, which provide access to the North. Unfortunately, however, the people were deprived of the opportunity of making use of this facility for no other reason than the refusal by the LTTE to remove the impediments which they had imposed.

Moreover, we made arrangements for the reconstruction of the North. We discussed with the LTTE the Government's comprehensive plans for rehabilitation and reconstruction work designed to give the people of these areas the benefit of electricity, roads, irrigation, schools, hospitals and the rebuilding of the Jaffna Library. We readily incorporated in our own plans, the proposals and suggestions made by the LTTE. Although the Government was ready to commence this work in February this year, the LTTE emphatically rejected this offer in writing and informed us of their refusal.

In addition to these measures the Government despatched twice a month, entirely free for the benefit of the people of the North, 2 or 3 ships containing food, fuel, kerosene and medical supplies. We continued to do this without interruption. There is some doubt whether the LTTE is allowing these goods to reach the people for whom they are intended.

INHUMAN APPROACH

As a result of the totally unwarranted and inhuman approach which the previous Government adopted towards the problems of the Tamil people, the relationship between them and the Government was characterised by rancour and an erosion of confidence. Our Government dedicated itself with firm resolve to the daunting yet essential task of restoring amity and goodwill. Measures intended to accomplish this objective were adopted not to strengthen the LTTE but to alleviate the burdens of a long suffering decision of our people. Like you and I, they too constitute a section of the people inhabiting our country, and they are entitled to equal rights and freedoms.

We pursued these objectives in order to convince the people of the North that an age had dawned in which it is no longer necessary to take up arms and engage in battle in order to enjoy one's legitimate rights. It is no secret that we have achieved this end. I assert without reservation that it is because of the patent success of our policy that the overwhelming majority of Tamil people in the North and elsewhere in the country exhort the LTTE to repudiate war and to participate in the peace initiatives.

I must here mention that we were able to maintain the cessation of hostilities which represented the second limb of our peace strategy - for a period of about 3 1/2 months.

POLITICAL SOLUTION

The third and crucial step was the commencement of negotiation directed towards a political solution. Although the Government repeatedly asked that the political discussions should begin, the LTTE resorting to a variety of irrelevant conditions, made every effort to postpone the commencement of this dialogue.

The Government's proposals embodying a political solution had been prepared as early as the middle of December 1994. It was our intention to discuss this package of proposals first with the LTTE and, after ascertaining their views, to enter into discussions regarding the substance of the proposals with other constituent parties of the People's Alliance, the UNP [United National Party] and Tamil parties and organisations. It was because the LTTE's involvement and concurrence was essential for the implementation of the Government's proposals that we decided to hold discussions with the LTTE first. I hardly think that it is necessary to dwell further on the correctness of this approach.

I conveyed this perception to the parties of the People's Alliance, to the Tamil parties and to the leadership of the UNP, and obtained their agreement. From December 1994, for 3 1/2 months the Government used every means of persuasion to prevail on the LTTE to initiate the political discussions. However, they were adamant in their refusal to do so. During the night of April 18, the LTTE took unilateral action to inform the Government that the cessation of hostilities was at an end and, within 4 hours, began a military onslaught.

By taking this action the LTTE deliberately brought to an abrupt end the first phase of the peace initiative which our Government embarked upon in August 1994.

The LTTE has rejected with disdain the systematic and thoughtful proposals which the Government has made. In the interests of the Tamil people, for the development of the north, they have declined in cavalier fashion even to consider the political proposals which we formulated with care for the sake of the entire Tamil population of the country; the LTTE has decided to spurn these initiatives which reach out towards peace and have opted instead for war in so doing the LTTE have shown themselves in their true colours as enemies not only of the State but of the Tamil people.

PACKAGE OF POLITICAL PROPOSALS

Our Government is now actively taking action to counter and defeat the arbitrary and irresponsible course of action launched by the LTTE. At the same time we have started discussions with all political parties about a package of political proposals which we have always seen as capable of giving rise to stable solutions to the problems of the Tamil people. Taking their views fully into consideration, we will be placing these political solutions before the people within the next few weeks.

All those who have reflected on recent events with some measure of objectivity are convinced beyond doubt that our Government, in its quest for peace in our beloved land, has shown itself capable of a degree of sacrifice and commitment which no other Government, in contemporary history, has demonstrated in discussions with an armed group. We blazed this unique trail because of the depth of our belief in values anchored in democracy, justice and humanity and because of the infinite strength and confidence which we derived from the unprecedented mandate which we received from all sections of our people.

FRIENDSHIP AND EQUALITY

It is on the basis of friendship and equality that we entered into these discussions with the LTTE, an organisation which has forcibly captured control of the political and administrative apparatus in one part of the country. As the established Government, we endeavoured to engage the LTTE in this kind of dialogue which we would have entered into with a responsible organisation in the country.

Contrary to the inane criticisms levelled against us by our adversaries, we were not at any time deceived by the LTTE. It is certainly not the case that we entertained fanciful or unrealistic expectations with regard to the LTTE. Prior to undertaking this initiative, we had equipped ourselves fully with a complete and accurate understanding of the political complexion of the LTTE, its modalities and tactics and the attitudes and mindset of its leadership.

However, I fervently believe, as you do, that the only lasting solution to the ethnic question and the war must emanate from a peace initiative which addresses the grievances of the Tamil people and formulates political solutions to them. In that event, what is the alternative to discussion with groups that are at war?

In order to engage in discussion with an adversary, complete trust in him is not essential. A dialogue is necessary to arrive at some measure of agreement.

TRAINING OF PERSONNEL

Another point which requires emphasis is that throughout the period of 8 months devoted to the peace initiative in no way was the strength and preparedness of the armed forces impaired or weakened. We recognised fully well that the LTTE could resume hostilities. Although we made no fresh recruitment to the armed forces, and although no new military equipment was procured during the progress of the peace initiative, the training of personnel in the armed forces was continued without interruption. Steps were taken to protect the armed forces by putting at their disposal equipment which they had been deprived of during 12 years of the UNP regime when war was being waged.

We fulfilled to the maximum possible extent the needs of the armed forces. We consistently sought the cooperation of the armed forces in moving away from war to an era of peace and tranquility, but we never ceased to impress on them the paramount necessity for vigilance and circumspection. We had taken the precaution of sending to all camps supplies of food, medicine and weaponry adequate for their requirements for several months. The armed forces proved themselves able to commence effective retaliatory action no sooner than the LTTE commenced its onslaught.

The LTTE has launched a vicious offensive against the Government which extended to them the hand of peace, the majority Sinhala Community in particular and the armed forces of the nation. Confronted with so decisive a challenge, our Government has no intention of showing signs of weakness or vacillation. I want our people to be assured of this. Although there were minor reverses during the preliminary skirmishes of the first two weeks, our armed forces have now secured the advantage and are prosecuting the war with manifest success.

The Government has acted very swiftly to secure for the armed forces essential equipment which they lacked for twelve long years when the war was fought in all its ferocity. The armed forces today have the benefit of a coherent and properly integrated plan of action.

ANY CONTINGENCY

In sharp contrast with the past, the armed forces do not receive contradictory and inconsistent directions from day to day. Our Government is putting into action a strategy which is based not on the personal idiosyncrasies and priorities of different leaders but on the sovereignty of the nation and the security of all its people. Our Government has prepared, for implementation, explicit political and military strategies which are appropriate to deal with any contingency which may arise.

If the LTTE persists in continuing the war, it will be evident to all that we have the decisive advantage of a military force which is indisputably superior in strength in terms of numbers as well as qualitatively. What is more, our Government and armed forces are engaged in a struggle for peace, and this struggle is based on sincere and clear policies which represent a radical departure from the confused and dishonourable policies which were followed in the past. The LTTE has ruthlessly thrust this war upon the Government which did its utmost to achieve peace by means of negotiation.

I would like to make it clear that if peace cannot be obtained by peace, our Government will not shirk its responsibility to use any other method to ensure the enthronement of peace. Our struggle is a struggle for peace. I declare with the greatest emphasis that this struggle is not in any sense directed against the Tamil people. We are today engaged in an armed struggle against those forces who are implacably opposed to the political solution and the peace which the entirety of the population of Sri Lanka, including the Tamil people, yearn for from the very depths of their hearts.

We will try our utmost, even in conditions of war, to ensure a continuous supply of food and medicine to the Tamil people.

You are already aware that the international community, as a whole warmly appreciates our peace effort. As a result, responding to the present situation, not only our neighbouring countries but also many countries of the West, as well as of the Arab World, have issued statements condemning the action of the LTTE. They have also expressed their solidarity with us and articulated their wish to help us in various ways to face the practical problems created by the action of the LTTE. This is, indeed, a source of infinite strength to us.

I implore you, who are striving for peace, to join hands with the rest of the country which has an equal dedication to the cause of peace. Impress on the LTTE, actively and vigorously, the inescapable need for peace.

In order to win the just rights of the Tamil people it is no longer necessary to sacrifice a single life. You demonstrated your willingness to make the supreme sacrifice that of life itself, in order to gain self-respect and your inalienable rights. I beseech you to join with us in our endeavour to confer this dignity and entitlement on you through the modalities of peace.

POLITICAL FUTURE

With the greatest difficulty we have secured the eradication of narrow attitudes predicated on chauvinism and hatred and begun to tread the path of amity and understanding. I must stress that we accomplished this by placing in jeopardy my own political future and that of our party and the personal security of myself, my children and the leaders of my party.

During the last 2 years all segments of the Sri Lankan community consisting of the Sinhalese, the Tamils, the Muslims, the Malays and the Burghers approached the ethnic question with a remarkable degree of maturity and sensitivity. I ask you all in earnest to continue displaying this same degree of understanding at so difficult a time as the present. I appeal to you extend to us, in our armed struggle to achieve peace, the same support and encouragement which were readily forthcoming from you throughout the duration of the peace initiatives of our Government.

DEEP GRATITUDE

As Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces I wish to express my deep gratitude to the armed forces who, during the last few years, acted with exemplary courage and bravery in defence of the Sinhala people and others living in this country, and the peace loving Tamil people inhabiting the North and the East.

I express my heartfelt condolences to members of bereaved families mourning the loss of personnel of the armed forces who laid down their lives because of the action of the LTTE in unilaterally repudiating the cessation of hostilities and unleashing terrorism on our country.

I want to state again, as I said before, that on our journey towards peace, at no time would we desert our armed forces or sacrifice their wellbeing in the slightest degree.

I warmly appreciate the goodwill and cooperation which the armed forces extended to the government throughout the peace initiative and during the cessation of hostilities. The government and the people of Sri Lanka and I personally are deeply in their debt for the assistance which they rendered us at this time. However now that circumstances have changed I am equally conscious of the strength and determination of the armed forces and their capability to respond to any challenge at a time when the LTTE has relentlessly met our peace efforts with the unleashing of war.

I know you will remember at all times that you are not at war against the Tamil people. My devout wish is that it should always remain uppermost in your minds that your action is directed solely against the LTTE which has declared war on the hopes and aspirations of the entirety of the population of Sri Lanka including the large majority of the Tamil people.

The signal service which you have rendered in the cause of the defence of our nation has received the unqualified commendation of all sections of our people irrespective of any distinction as to race or ethnic background.

I assure you in conclusion that my government and I remain unswervingly committed to achievement of the goals or democracy and human freedom, governance bereft of corruption, an economy pulsating with life and in particular the dawn of peace in accordance with the lofty aspirations of the overwhelming majority of our people who gave us their mandate in such strikingly sweeping terms. **May the blessings of the noble Triple Gem be with you all!**

Rebels Kill Troopers in Clashes in Northeast

BK0106072295 Hong Kong AFP in English
0702 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 1 (AFP) — Fierce jungle battles raged in northeastern Sri Lanka Thursday [1 June] as Tamil rebels killed at least 11 troopers and wounded over 35, despite foreign pressure to de-escalate ethnic bloodletting, officials said.

Gunmen from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) shot dead six soldiers, including a captain, and lost an estimated 45 of their own cadres during intense fighting, a local military official said.

"About 35 soldiers were wounded. They were evacuated by helicopter. More soldiers are being sent to keep up the fight in the Tiriyai jungles," an official in

Trincomalee, 260 kilometers (160 miles) northeast of here said by telephone.

He said intense hand-to-hand fighting raged for about two hours on Thursday morning as troops in the operation, codenamed Ramashakti-III, moved towards bases used by the LTTE to stage attacks against civilians in the port district.

The commanding officer of the First Vijayaba Infantry regiment too was wounded while leading his men from the front, local official said.

Chief military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said the clashes were triggered as the army advanced towards LTTE jungle bases. "The terrorists have suffered a hell of a lot," Munasinghe said adding that fighting was continuing.

The killings followed a pre-dawn LTTE assault against a police post in the northwest Mannar region where five constables were killed and three more wounded, raising to 56 the day's death toll according to military estimates.

Defence officials said that policemen who were killed and wo@nded while defending the Thallady police post in Mannar, were brought to a hospital in the northcentral town of Anuradhapura.

The upsurge in violence came as the Canadian State Secretary Raymond Chan visited Sri Lanka on a three-day official visit and expressed concern over the resumption of hostilities between the government and the LTTE.

Western governments, including the European Union, have called on the LTTE to resume political negotiations and de-escalate the fighting which has claimed nearly 700 lives since the LTTE pulled out of peace talks on April 19.

The Canadian High Commission (embassy) here quoted Chan as saying that he would underline Canada's support for peace and explore the possibility of getting President Chandrika Kumaratunga's peace process back on track.

Chan who arrived here Wednesday is expected to hold talks with Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike before leaving on Friday.

"We are pleased to see a government so open and receptive to minority problems," Chan was quoted by the foreign ministry here as saying.

Minor Tamil political parties have already had meetings with President Kumaratunga, a member of the majority Sinhala community, and welcomed her plans to grant more powers to Tamils in a bid to end the protracted ethnic conflict.

Moderate Tamils led by the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) too has supported Kumaratunga's attempts to hammer out a political settlement to the conflict and asked the LTTE to stop the fighting.

However, defence sources here said that given the mounting losses suffered by the security forces in the island's east, the military had little choice but to launch a major offensive in the LTTE-held northern Jaffna peninsula.

"The only way to take the heat off the east is to go for big offensiv@ in the north and draw the LTE cadres there," a military oficer who did not want to be named said.

The LTTE maintains its defacto separate state in the northern Jaffna peninsula where the rebels have their own civil administration, while security forces there are confined to a handful of camps.

Over 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting since the LTTE began its guerrilla campaign 23 years ago to set up a Tamil homeland for the two million Tamils concentrated in the northern and eastern parts of the island.

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